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"Older than the New York Times"

THE SPECTATOR

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HAMILTON.EDU

Adirondack Adventure leaders greet first-years.
See page 4 for orientation coverage.

President Stewart takes reins

by Christopher Takacs '05
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Hamilton College's 19th President, Joan Hinde Stewart, opened Convocation ceremonies on Sunday, August 31, delivering a speech entitled "Reason and Writing" to a packed Wellin Hall. Talking about her passion for Enlightenment thought and her immense love of languages, Stewart revealed how she came to know about, and eventually fall in love with, Hamilton. The speech marked her first large-scale public address since she was introduced as the next president of the school.

In an interview with The Spectator, Stewart spoke of her goals for the College. "first, I want to get to know Hamilton very well, and learn better how to address the challenges that we face here. I want to spend some time listening, to understand the culture, and together we can evolve a vision for Hamilton."

When asked what her favorite book is, Stewart smiled and said "I can't pick just one... but long 19th century novels... Dickens, Balzac, Proust." She is currently reading Richard White's Making the Most of College.

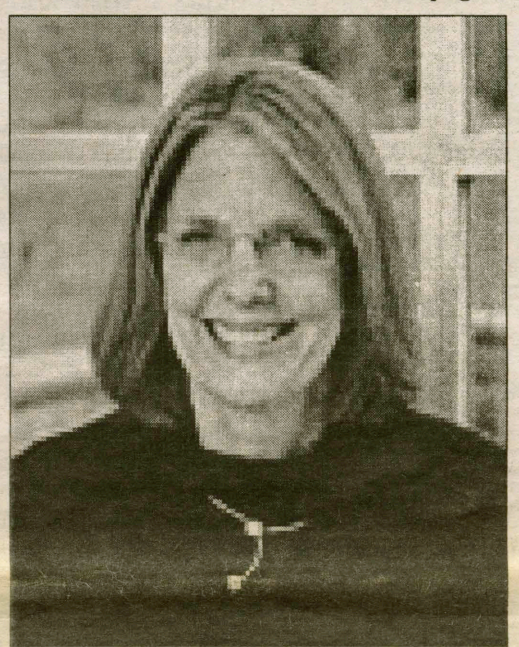
As a well-published academic in the field of 18th century French literature, focusing on Women writers, Stewart regrets that her scholarly work will, at least at first, have to take a backseat to her new role, "My first job is to be president of Hamilton College... but I hope to find time to keep up with scholarship."

Stewart was formerly dean of the College of Liberal Arts and professor of French at the University of South Carolina (USC). The first in her family to earn a college degree, Stewart also joined the Hamilton faculty as professor of French. She is the first female president in Hamilton's more-than-190-year history.

Prior to her arrival at USC in 1999, Stewart was at North Carolina State University as a member of the faculty from 1973 to 1999 and chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures from 1985 to 1997. She also served as assistant dean for research and graduate programs for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. In 1988-89, Stewart chaired the North Carolina Humanities Council, and in 1977 she received the university's Outstanding Teaching Award.

Before joining the NC State faculty, Stewart taught at Wellesley College. She received her Ph.D.

*see **President Stewart**, page 7*



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President Joan Hinde Stewart.
See New Faculty article, page 2.

Hamilton slips in rankings

Awarded writing, research distinctions

by Jon Kuhl '06
MANAGING EDITOR

As prospective college students begin the process of choosing a college, the journey often begins by consulting the U.S. News & World Report's college rankings guide. The guide evaluates colleges and universities using various categories and then, based on scores in these categories ranks the institutions. In the newly released 2004 guide, Hamilton College dropped from 18 to 21 in the top national Liberal Arts College category.

In the 2003 rankings, Hamilton was tied with both Colgate University and Colby College, both of which are now ranked at 17th along with Bryn Mawr College and Harvey Mudd College.

Despite the three spot drop in rankings, it is important to note that Hamilton's overall score in the 2004 rankings was 82, just one point shy of the 83 that moved our competitors into the 17th ranking.

Among the categories that hurt Hamilton were our college's "Graduation & Retention Rank," which dropped from a score of 22 to 20 and the "Financial Resources Rank," which dropped from 29 to 25. The College did, however, improve its scores in the "Faculty Resources Rank," "Selectivity Rank," and "Alumni Giving Rank" categories.

The circumstances surrounding former Hamilton College President Tobin's departure could have affected Hamilton's rank, however according to Hamilton's Executive Director of Communications Mike Debraggio, "As for President Tobin's resignation, the only category that may have [been] affected was peer assessment, and as you can see, there was no change from one year to the next." In the "Peer Assessment" category, which allows outside leaders in higher education to evaluate a college, and is the highest weighted category, Hamilton remained at a score of 3.8 out of a possible 5.

Although separate from the rankings, in the guide's "Programs to look for" section, Hamilton was recognized as being among the top 13 colleges and universities in a category named "Writing in the Disciplines." Among the institutions that share this distinction are: Cornell University, Duke University, Harvard University, Princeton University, and Yale University.

In the guide's "Programs to look for" section, Hamilton was also recognized as being among the top 39 schools in a category named "Undergraduate Research/ Creative Projects." Commenting on being identified in these two selective categories President Stewart said in a press release, "We teach students to write well, and we provide opportunities for individualized instruction through research and creative projects. It is gratifying to know that our peers recognize the distinctiveness of a Hamilton education."

Despite the drop in the rankings, there has been some positive feedback from the academic and ranking world. Noting the drop in the rankings, Debraggio offered a positive spin, "For me, the takeaway message from this year's rankings is that we continue to compete with some of the best small colleges in the country for some of the best students in the country. That hasn't changed from one year to the next."

North Hall gutted, improved

by Kristy Hague '05
NEWS WRITER

Over the summer, Hamilton College spent approximately 6 million dollars on construction projects throughout the campus to improve and modernize the facilities.

The most noticeable additions to the campus are the renovations to North Residence Hall, the continued construction on the new science center, and the extension of Martin's Way. In addition to these obvious changes, Hamilton has installed new sprinkler systems into all the dark side, DKE and Kirkland Residence Halls, resurfaced the football field, and completed the ITS move to the third floor of the library.

"We had an aggressive summer with a lot of projects to accomplish and we were able to achieve all those objectives," says Steven Bellona, the director of the Physical Plant. The construction projects were completed on time and on budget.

Construction on Phase One of the science center entered its second year as the exterior stone masonry was completed, interior walls were built, and the roof was completed. In addition, much of the electrical and heating systems has been run throughout the building. Phase One will be completed by May 2004, and ready for student use by next year. Be prepared to take Chemistry, Physics, and Biology classes in the new center next fall. Psychology and Geology will move into Saunders Hall of Chemistry when Phase Two accelerates.

Workers have begun construction of the stone masonry of Phase Two. Next summer, the current Science Center will be gutted and work will begin on creating a new floor layout and updating all lab facilities. If the building continues on schedule, the new Science Center will entirely complete by fall 2005.

The 56 million dollar project was undertaken because the current science center could not accommodate the growing demands of the science curricula. Student demand for new and modernized research space and a need to expand the present science programs also encouraged the construction project.

Last renovated in 1960, North Residence Hall was completely modernized in order to meet changing fire codes, address the poorly ventilated bathrooms, and other mechanical and heating issues. The building

*see **Construction**, page 7*

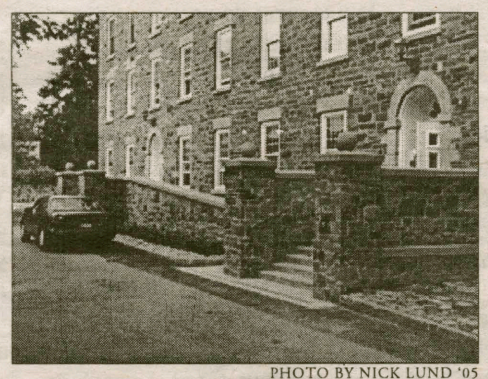

PHOTO BY NICK LUND '05

Newly renovated North Residence Hall.

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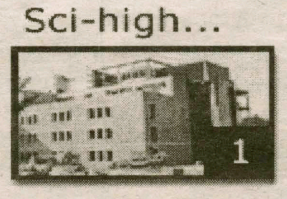


Mars...

New faces...

Who's new on the Hill? New faculty speak out

Compiled by Sarah Karalunas '04
EDITOR EMERITUS

Editor's Note: The following article was primarily compiled from responses to an email sent to all new faculty members. Only those members who responded are included in the article. Students can obtain a full list of new facutly members from the Dean of Faculty.

Verena Blechinger-Talcott
Government
What are your specific academic areas of interest and what about these areas fascinates you?

I am a comparative political scientist, studying politics in East Asia, especially in Japan. I find comparative politics fascinating because it uses cross-country comparisons to explain political phenomena. It requires not only theoretical and analytical skills, but also substantive knowledge of the countries that are selected to examine theoretical expectations. In Japanese politics, I am most fascinated by the workings of Japan's political economy and the interactions between politicians, bureaucrats, and big business in political decision-making.

What drew you to apply for a position at Hamilton?

Having spent my student years at big universities and in many lecture classes with 300 and more students, I am fascinated by Liberal Arts education. When I saw the Hamilton job opening, I spent a lot of time on the Internet researching the College website. I very much liked the way Hamilton presented itself on the web: as a highly selective and vibrant institution with excellent faculty and gifted students, and as a place where life and learning are fun. This positive impression was confirmed when I came here for my campus visit and had a chance to meet with students and faculty. Although I was here for a job interview and quite nervous, I had a great time and was fascinated by all the interesting people I met here at Hamilton and by the quality of the students I spoke to.

What are you most looking forward to this year? What are you most concerned about?

I am most looking forward to working with my students and to get to know them better. I hope to introduce my students to the many fascinating aspects of politics, and especially politics in East Asia.
What am I most concerned about?

Definitely winter - how cold will it be? How much snow will we have? And: how will I ever make it across that footbridge at the Beinecke Student Activities Village when it is icy? I slipped already once in the rain on my way to class...

What's one thing that students should know about you (about your teaching style or personality) before signing up for your classes?

Be prepared to work hard in my classes, but also know that my door is always open for students who have questions or problems with class material, assignments, or beyond.
What interests do you have outside of academics? (i.e. what do you do in your spare time/on the weekends?)

Antiques, hiking and skiing, Music (Jazz), movies (independent and foreign films) and Japanese TV dramas, or just spending time with my husband Paul.

Kara Bopp '96
Psychology
What are your specific academic areas of interest and what about these areas fascinates you?

My general areas of inerest are cognition and development. Memory is my biggest specialty and the intersection between development, memory, and cognition.

What drew you to apply for a position at Hamilton?

I'm back, in part, because of one of the professors I had here: Professor [John] Rybash. He's the one who got me interested in memory and aging to begin with. We all have those really special teachers. He was my special teacher.

What are you most looking forward to this year?

The interactions with students. I've been at SU, which is very different, so I'm excited to be back in the small classes.

What's one thing that students should know about you (about your teaching style or personality) before signing up for your classes?

I'm really, really enthusiastic. So, if they're tired, it might be overwhelming. Also, I like people to be involved and to really be directing where the course is going.

What interests do you have outside of academics? (i.e. what do you do in your spare time/on the weekends?)

My dog Huston (after Allan Huston of the NY Knicks), sports, cooking. Quilting is my new hobby because it's mathematical, yet it's also creative. I'm turning into an old Martha Stewart type!

Mirla Criste Agnir
Theatre
What are your specific academic areas of interest and what about these areas fascinates you?

I'm a Theatre professor, in the area of Acting/Directing, with a specialization in Voice and Movement for the Actor. I've been engaged in various areas of live performance virtually all of my life, and count myself extremely blessed in that I can say without reservation that I'm doing what I love best for a living.

What drew you to apply for a position at Hamilton?

Again, Hamilton offers a somewhat familiar environment - with an emphasis on academic excellence and on a broad academic experience for the undergraduate. I was excited about teaching the caliber of student that attends the college, and after my first day of teaching, I've confirmed that I've made the right choice!

What are you most looking forward to this year? What are you most concerned about?

As I've said before, I'm very much looking forward to being in a familiar environment; working among collegial faculty and staff; and teaching inquisitive, diligent, and enthusiastic young people.

I think I'm most concerned that I won't want to leave when my yearlong appointment is up! Situations of this sort are certainly tough to come by.

What's one thing that students should know about you (about your teaching style or personality) before signing up for your classes?

The world makes many assumptions about whether or not one can be trained to act, and what goes into an acting class. I'm both a technician and a scholar, and my classes always feature sufficient academic rigor to sometimes frighten away the faint of heart, and at the same time excite those with the desire for both challenge and adventure. Like all of the classes in the Theatre Department, my acting classes are not "fluff courses."

On the flip side, I truly love teaching and usually enjoy an excellent rapport with my students. My classes are almost always very physical, and students should expect something of a workout(!)

What interests do you have outside of academics? (i.e. what do you do in your spare time/on the weekends?)

Hmm...I'm a bit of an internet junkie and designer of webpages, attend live performance (theatre, music, dance, etc.) whenever possible, read, cook, write, travel, socialize with good friends, and volunteer my time with one or two non-profit organizations.

Rob Foels
Psychology
What are your specific academic areas of interest?

I'm interested in socialization processes in general. Right now, I'm trying to ask how larger sociological situations influence an individual, and how individuals feed back into society to perpetuate these systems.

What drew you to apply for a position at Hamilton?

Where I'm from in Iowa, only about one quarter of the students attend college, so I hadn't heard of Hamilton or Colgate. I've taught at Colgate for the past two years, which was my introduction to small liberal arts schools, and I love it. Coming to Hamilton was a chance to continue at a prestigious school...where students challenge you back.

What's one thing that students should know about you (about your teaching style or personality) before signing up for your classes?

I will not lecture. You have to think. You have to be involved.

What interests do you have outside of academics? (i.e. what do you do in your spare time/on the weekends?)

Large construction projects, camping, hiking, kayaking. Also, I like trashy war novels, especially Fredrick Forsyth and Jack Higgins because they take some kernal of truth and then weave an entire story around it.

Cristina Gonzalez Gomez
Spanish
What are your specific academic areas of interest and what about these areas fascinates you?

Spanish Theatre from 16th & 17th centuries, Spanish novel from the second half of XIX century (Realism period)

What drew you to apply for a position at Hamilton?

I was teaching Spanish for the program that Hamilton has in Madrid (Spain) from 2002. I was offered to come for two semesters and I thougth that it was an opportunity that I could refuse. I gave up (for a while) all American abroad programs that I was working for apart from Hamilton (Bentley College, USC, etc) and even my doctorate courses.

What are you most looking forward to this year? What are you most concerned about?

I want to know more about Hamilton College policy, the American university system, I am very interesting in challenging students about Spanish language & culture and in promoting the Hamilton abroad program. It's a exciting challenge for me to encourage students to study other languages as Spanish to make more fluent the communications among different countries all over the world.

What's one thing that students should know about you (about your teaching style or personality) before signing up for your classes?

If they are ready for working hard every single day and for speaking / listening Spanish in class, it will be easy to learn Spanish and to get a high grade in my classes, enjoying at the same time.

What interests do you have outside of academics? (i.e. what do you do in your spare time/on the weekends?)

I love good movies, and theatre, as well as sports like skiing, swimming, playing tennis (but I'm not good doing it), trekking, diving and other outdoor sports. The nature fascinates me.

Aram Goudsouzian
History
What are your specific academic areas of interest and what about these areas fascinates you?

I am interested in the intersections of race and popular culture—how Americans have used the movies, music, sports, theater, etc. as ways to both stifle and promote racial progress.

What drew you to apply for a position at Hamilton?

I was interested in teaching Af-Am history, and having gone to a small, Northeast liberal arts school, this seemed like an ideal opportunity.

What are you most looking forward to this year? What are you most concerned about?

I'm looking forward to meeting lots of students and becoming part of this small, tight-knit community, which is very different from my previous teaching experiences.

What's one thing that students should know about you (about your teaching style or personality) before signing up for your classes?

They will be challenged but not overwhelmed; they will be supported but not coddled; they will giggle at me but not guffaw.

What interests do you have outside of academics? (i.e. what do you do in your spare time/on the weekends?)

I love sports: soccer, golf, basketball.

Amy Guptill
Sociology
What are your specific academic areas of interest and what about these areas fascinates you?

I study issues of rural and international development in North America and the Caribbean, focusing especially on agriculture and food. In many ways, food is at the very foundation of society, and I enjoy seeing the unexpected links between disparate areas of social life.

What drew you to apply for a position at Hamilton?

First, the intellectually curious and engaged students that come here. Secondly, the beautiful surrounding area.

What are you most looking forward to this year? What are you most concerned about?

I'm most excited about working with students. I'm worried about time flying by, about May coming in a blink.

What's one thing that students should know about you (about your teaching style or personality) before signing up for your classes?

I really, really care about good writing. If you take a writing intensive course with me, I hope you are eager to really work on writing. Often students are expected to divine the implicit contours of good, readable academic prose. I believe in making the implicit explicit. For example, just don't hand in a paper that starts

see Faculty, page 5

IVORY TOWERS

THE NEWS AT COLLEGES ACROSS THE LAND

Compiled by Chris Takacs '05

Students caught downloading music

(U-WIRE) CHESTNUT HILL, Mass. -- College students and thousands of other individuals across the country who use computers to illegally download copyrighted music can expect to receive more than their favorite songs the next time they use a filesharing program.

They can expect a lawsuit, according to the Recording Industry Association of America. -

A spokesperson for the industry told the Chronicle of Higher Education this week that the group plans to step up its efforts to identify and sue illegal filesharers this September.

Meanwhile, the RIAA has already subpoenaed Boston College for the personal information of three students who allegedly have downloaded and shared a large amount of copyrighted material.

Two of the students, who go by the usernames "TheLastReal7" and "Prtythug23," were using KaZaA.

According to subpoenas obtained by The Heights, "TheLastReal7" has been subpoenaed for illegally sharing seven songs on June 29, including songs by LFO, Lauryn Hill, Marvin Gaye, and Snoop Dogg, among others. "Prtythug23" has been subpoenaed for offering eight songs, also on June 29, ranging from Busta Rhyme's "Pass the Courvoisier," to Michael Jackson's "The Way You Make Me Feel."

The third student, who used iMesh, goes by the username "lil_liz82." According to the user's subpoena, the student was sharing seven songs illegally on July 2, including Marvin Gaye's "Lets Get It On," Madonna's "Like a Virgin," and "2 become 1" by the Spice Girls.

According to the RIAA's motion to force BC to comply with the subpoenas, the three students were "offering hundreds of copyrighted works to the world-at-large over one of the major peer-to-peer networks. RIAA downloaded a sampling of the files being offered and ascertained that they were indeed illegal copies of copyrighted music."

Citing concerns for students' privacy, and a lack of reasonable time to comply with the subpoenas, the University has filed a motion to quash the subpoenas.

BC has also taken issue with the filing of the subpoenas. Because they were filed in the federal district court in Washington, D.C., and not in Boston, the University claims they are invalid.

Oklahoma looks to stop Alabama's offensive game

(U-WIRE) NORMAN, Okla. -- It's all too familiar to hear about the University of Oklahoma defense.

It is the trademark of the Sooner team, and the team showed it with a win over North Texas in the season opener.

This weekend, the OU defense has a bigger challenge at hand, a game against one of the most storied football programs in the nation. The battle of crimson is about to get under way.

The OU backfield is known for its ability to make big plays. Senior cornerback Derrick Strait already made headway for the Sooners last weekend with seven tackles, one fumble forced (which was later converted to a touchdown by the OU offense) and one pass broken up.

Along with Strait, the Sooners boast senior safety Brandon Everage, who sat last week after being suspended for the first game of the season. The suspension was an internal decision by the athletic department for breaking team policy.

Everage will suit up against Alabama on Saturday, and his teammates believe his presence will be noted.

"Brandon [Everage] brings a lot of experience to the table," Strait said. "He has a knowledge of our system, and he plays hard. I am glad I will have him on the field with me again."

In 2003, the Sooner defense led the nation with 24 interceptions, helped by Everage and Strait grabbing six each.

WORLD NEWS

Compiled by Chris Takacs '05

France, Germany Reject U.S. Draft on Iraq

DRESDEN, Germany (AP) -- France and Germany refused Thursday to support a U.S. draft resolution that would spread the burden of running postwar Iraq, but said they believed a compromise was possible.

French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder demanded that Washington give the United Nations more influence in Iraq's political future. Their stance threatened to reopen a barely healed trans-Atlantic rift over their ardent opposition to the Iraq war.

Under the draft resolution circulated Wednesday at the United Nations, Washington seeks money and troops from other countries but would not cede political or military control in Iraq.

Chirac seemed particularly critical of the U.S. initiative and was adamant that the draft foresee the United States' giving up control of the political process in Iraq. France is one of five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, meaning it has veto power over council actions.

Yet Chirac and Schroeder, meeting in Dresden for informal consultations, struck a conciliatory note. They said they saw a chance to negotiate a compromise at the United Nations, where talks over the draft are expected to be tough and lengthy.

Schroeder also said the proposal fell short, but welcomed it as "showing there is some movement."

Rumsfeld: Iraqis Must Take Over Security

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) -- American officials want to speed up training for Iraqi security forces, including former members of Saddam Hussein's military and intelligence services, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Thursday.

Making Iraq safe is a job for Iraqis, and no more U.S. troops are needed in the country, Rumsfeld said after meeting in the capital with top military and civilian officials of the American-led occupation.

"Security is a problem, but it's a problem that, ultimately, the Iraqi people will deal with, with the help of coalition forces," Rumsfeld said at an impromptu news conference.

Rumsfeld arrived in Baghdad on Thursday afternoon for his second visit to Iraq in four months. He said coalition forces had completed more than 6,000 humanitarian projects since then.

"It is getting better every day. I can see a change since I was here," Rumsfeld said. "That is not to say it is not dangerous. It is. But it seems to me that the trajectory we're on is a good one."

Despite problems in restoring and repairing Iraq's electrical system, Baghdad at night glows with light, Rumsfeld said after returning on a Black Hawk helicopter from one downtown compound to an American base near the city's airport.

Abbas Says Infighting Is Weakening Him

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) -- Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas asked parliament Thursday to either support him or strip him of his post, saying infighting is keeping him from making progress on a U.S.-backed peace plan.

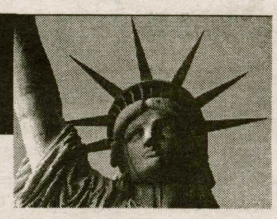
Weakened by a power struggle with Yasser Arafat, Abbas told legislators he must be given full power to carry out reforms required by the "road map" peace plan. If the demand is met, Abbas would have a stronger hand against militants he is pressing to stop attacks against Israelis.

Abbas, summing up his first 100 days in office, stopped short of seeking a vote of confidence that could topple him, but said he is leaving his future in parliament's hands.

"I am not attached to this post and I am not (making) and will not make any effort to keep this post. It is a difficult mission that many describe as impossible," Abbas said.

At the start of the parliamentary session, about 200 activists in Arafat's Fatah movement demonstrated in support of their leader. Seven masked men from the crowd broke down a door to the building and smashed windows before unarmed guards forced them out.

NATIONAL NEWS



Compiled by Chris Takacs '05

Lawmakers Press Ohio Power Company Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Lawmakers on Thursday pressed an Ohio power company at the center of the blackout investigation about its failure to warn neighboring utilities that it was having transmission line problems just before an eight-state region went dark.

Power grid operators in Michigan have complained they had no warning that problems were developing in Ohio's power lines on the afternoon of Aug. 14, even though a dozen voltage lines in Ohio had failed or were automatically being shut down as a precaution before the blackout.

"Our system was stable, there was no reason to do anything beyond what was done," FirstEnergy Chairman H. Peter Burg told a congressional hearing. He produced a timeline of transmission activities that he said demonstrated that despite the line outages, there was no significant shift in power flow until about two minutes before the blackout began spreading.

"Our system appeared fairly stable until the very end," said Burg, whose Akron, Ohio-based power company - the nation's fourth largest investor-owned utility company - has sought to deflect charges that its lines triggered the blackout.

"We strongly believe that such a widespread loss of power could only result from a combination of events, not from a few isolated events," Burg said. He likened the Midwest grid to a boxer going down. "The last punch was important, but the accumulation of all the previous blows led to his weakened condition," the executive said.

Judge Dismisses New 10 Commandments Suit

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) -- A federal judge on Thursday dismissed a lawsuit by three residents seeking to return a 5,300-pound Ten Commandments monument to the lobby of the Alabama Judicial building.

U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson said removal of the monument did not unconstitutionally establish a religion of nontheistic beliefs, as the residents claimed.

"The empty space or 'nothingness' in the rotunda of the Judicial Building is neither an endorsement of `nontheistic belief' nor a sign of disrespect for Christianity or any other religion," Thompson said. He said the empty space demonstrates government neutrality toward religion.

Suspended Chief Justice Roy Moore had the monument moved into the judicial building two years ago, saying it represents the moral foundation of American law. Thompson ruled the monument an unconstitutional promotion of religion by government and ordered it removed. It was eventually put in a storage room last week.

Thompson's dismissal came a day after a spokeswoman for Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove said Moore had turned down Musgrove's offer to publicly display the monument for a week at the Mississippi Capitol.

Judge Nixes Lawsuit Against McDonald's

NEW YORK (AP) -- For a second time this year, a federal judge threw out a class-action lawsuit Thursday that blamed McDonald's for making people fat.

U.S. District Judge Robert Sweet said the plaintiffs failed to show that the fast-food chain misled consumers into believing its food was nutritious and part of a healthy diet.

Sweet tossed out an earlier version of the lawsuit in January that claimed McDonald's food causes health problems in children.

On Thursday he rejected a request that the plaintiffs be permitted to file a new version, which claimed that McDonald's violated New York's consumer protection laws and engaged in deceptive advertising.

The Oak Brook, Ill.-based company called the ruling a "total victory" and said its menu options can fit into a healthy, well-balanced diet.

A message left for the plaintiffs' lawyer was not immediately returned.

In a statement, the National Restaurant Association said Sweet's decision demonstrated that "reason and common sense have prevailed."

New Student Orientation

by Obio N'tia '04
News Contributor

The fast moving car-in car-out atmosphere outside of South Residence Hall on the first morning of New Student Orientation (NSO) had the pace of a major Nascar event.

The grass in front of South was lined with cars and SUVs. Each vehicle arrived packed with belongings. The main focus of the area was the cooperative transportation effort between freshman, parents, Orientation Leaders (OLs), and Residential Advisors (RAs). With this collaborative effort, cars were instantly emptied and sent off to North Lot.

While helping freshmen move in to Dunham and commenting on Orientation check-in, OL Robbie Wang '05 said that Tuesday was, in fact, the "Best Day Ever," just as his bright yellow t-shirt proclaimed. Dan Fiore, '04, another OL, elaborated, commenting that being an OL is "tough, but rewarding".

The willing assistance of upperclassmen living in non-freshman dorms was welcome assistance. Lindsay Randolph and Crystal Kim, RA's in Woolcott House and Eels House, could have chosen to sleep in for an extra few days and wait for their older advisees to arrive on campus. Instead, they could be found at Kirkland ready to help.

At Root Dorm, students discussed the substance free living option. Although some of the new students did not request substance free housing, they all seemed ready to welcome and embrace additional substance in their lives by starting anew at Hamilton.

Freshman Root resident Alice Doh, for example, could become a Navy Officer upon graduation and train young Navy cadets. Another freshman in Root, Michael Blasik, was all smiles and eager to join clubs and start activities that he had never thought about before.

Alice and Michael were both thrilled that they took part in the Cranberry Lake Sea Kayak Adventure, led by Lindsay Wellman '01 and Sarah Schneider '05.

Tuesday ended with the First Night Experience. Events of the day included the Welcoming Speech by President Joan Hinde Stewart, along with Opening Ceremonies with choreography provided by the OL's.

The Class of '07 had an early start Wednesday morning with the Quantitative Literacy Exam at 8:30 in Wellin Hall, followed by the speech "Making the Most of Hamilton" by Harvard educator Richard Light.

Much thanks is due to Brenda Marris of the Counseling Center who provided her copy of Richard Light's book to be signed and dedicated to the Class of 2007. Light's book, "Making the Most of College: Students Speak Their Minds," is available.

Professor Light's inscribed words next to the cover page of Brenda's copy of his book speak for themselves: "[August, 2003] To the Hamilton College Class of 2007-I wish you an absolutely wonderful experience here at Hamilton. This is a great college, and I hope each person 'makes the most of it!' Best Wishes, Richard Light."

Orientation is now long gone and freshman are getting into the swing of things, merely a single step closer to their graduation walk in 2007.

Open-Mic Night

By Becky Ramsey '07
News Contributor

The Open Mic Night held on the Friday of orientation provided a break from the usual structure of activities during the week. Members of the class of 2007, Orientation leaders (OLs) and Resident Advisors (RAs) were invited to present short performances in an evening showcasing their abilities.

Students attending the event remarked on the variety and breadth of performances during the evening.

Presentations included musical acts and comedy routines. Many of the musicians played pieces from contemporary groups, while several others performed original compositions. Gospel music made an appearance, as did a trio of freshmen students, formed after arriving on campus. One performer did Irish dancing and two others did stand-up comedy. Someone even played an improvised piano piece emulating classic opera. Most students enjoyed the evening.

"There is an amazing amount of talent in the Freshman class," said Suzy Belmont '07.

In addition to these presentations, the OLs put on a skit about the college selection process and life at Hamilton. The show, given in several installments, followed "Adam" a prospective college student as he visited colleges (None, the skit showed, were nearly as friendly as Hamilton), was introduced to the varsity streaking team, and discovered the joys of meeting his roommate for the first time.

"I thought it was pretty entertaining, especially the way they assigned certain personalities for each school," said Freshman Becca Gross. "It was entertaining."

Toto: We're not in Kansas anymore

By Paxton Ramsdell '07
News Contributor

On Thursday, August 28th members of the class of 2007 filed into Wellin Hall to hear Dr. Maura Cullen and her presentation on diversity. Already weary from two days full of meetings, presentations and talks few had any idea what to expect and many seemed more inclined to sleep than hear the speaker; however, this changed once Dr. Cullen took the stage. She warmed everyone up with a quick story about how her wake up call did not come that morning and how she locked some of her props for the act in her car.

Dr. Cullen's talk was more of a comedy routine with a purpose than a lecture on diversity. She used humor to make examples of how people could do more to promote diversity every day. She encouraged students to not "clump" or stick only with members of their own race, age, religion, socioeconomic class, but to branch out and get to know all members of the community.

Cullen finished her presentation with a slide show highlighting human accomplishments and motivating images set to the music of R. Kelly. Cullen's sense of humor took what could have been a very uncomfortable and rarely talked about topic and made it easy for everyone in attendance to handle and understand.

Hamilton: Past, Present and Future

By Katie Jones '07
News Contributor

As part of New Student Orientation, members of the class of 2007 were invited to attend an activity called Hamilton Community: Past, Present and Future.

Students were first introduced to Judicial Board Chair Allison Domm '04 and Honor Court Chair Allison Manly '04. Both speakers encouraged students to uphold the Honor Code, both in their academic work and in their social lives.

Phyllis Holmes Breland '80, who attended Kirkland at the time that it merged with Hamilton, then spoke about her experiences on the Hill. She told students passionately and candidly both of her activism in school and her love for the college. Her speech encouraged all students to "make a place for themselves" at Hamilton.

"If you dig a little bit you can see how much progress the campus has made," said Breland. "Everything really matters. College is not about what you have to do or what someone makes you do. It's about coming prepared with solutions to problems."

Students then sang traditional Hamilton songs, including Carissima, along with members of the choir.

The class of 2007 left the auditorium with not only a better knowledge of Hamilton's history, but a more complete sense of what makes Hamilton such a unique, special place.

Mentalist Al Snyder

by Sara Lozo '06
News Contributor

Mentalist Dr. Al Snyder returned to Hamilton last Saturday to perform for the Class of 2007 and other members of the Hamilton community.

Orientation Coordinator Abby Tracy said, "A great thing about [Al Snyder's] show is that he mixes the 'stunts' that he uses every year, so that if you have seen him before, it's never the same show. His show has always been one of the highlights of the orientation program and this year was no different."

The 30 volunteers who sat on stage Saturday concentrated on a light and the sound of Snyder's voice while music played in the background. Once participants were hypnotized by these techniques, Dr. Snyder began creating different scenarios.

In one instance, Jen, an Orientation Leader (OL), was led to believe that her chair was mouthing off. Each time Snyder said the word "Hamilton," Jen jumped from her chair and ordered it to stop.

As a result of similar promptings from Snyder, another participant stole other students' shoes and stuffed them in his sweatshirt while Snyder's back was turned.

At the end of the performance, after this volunteer had amassed a rather large quantity of footwear, Snyder informed him that the shoes were, in fact, nightcrawlers. Upon hearing this news, the student frantically flung shoes in all directions as their owners scrambled to retrieve them.

Another OL was convinced that a microphone pole was a beautiful actress. He shyly agreed to pose next to her for a picture and became absorbed in whispering sweet nothings in her ear. After being brought back to reality, the participant viewed the photograph and sadly admitted that the object of his infatuation was indeed an object.

Other highlights of the evening included a NASCAR race, an interview with George and Barbara Bush, an aerobics class led by Richard Simmons and a butt dancing contest.

Sarah Voigt '06 said, "The hypnotist was my favorite part of freshmen orientation. I think the funniest part this year was the kid who collected shoes."

Dr. Snyder, a Wisconsin native, has traveled the country with his hypnosis show for the past decade. This fall marks his seventh performance at Hamilton.

Respect: *Sexual harassment and rape*

Greta Rosenberger '07
News Contributor

The class of 2007 attended a lecture given by Rebecca Butler on the evening of August 27th. The presentation, entitled "Respect," discussed the issue of rape and included startling statistics concerning rape in colleges nationwide along with Ms. Butler's personal story of her own experience with rape. After she concluded her speech, representatives from Hamilton's support and sexual harassment prevention groups stood to present the students with additional facts.

The Harassment Grievance Board also provided more local statistics on the amount of harassment that goes on at Hamilton, but emphasized that the numbers being presented were only a small fraction of the probable amount, since most students do not come forward when they have been a victim of harassment.

After the presentation, students were directed to their dorms to discuss what they thought of the evening's activities in small groups. Most had similar reactions to Ms. Butler. Liz Ryvkin '07 stated that "She was too vague about her actual experience to be really believable." Kevin Broydrick agreed, saying "She seemed to be suppressing the details of her story so much that it was hard to believe she had fully recovered from her experiences."

Editorial
The Spectator

THE SPECTATOR

"Older than the New York Times"

Newly appointed President of Hamilton College Joan Stewart has spent her first few months on the Hill acclimating herself to campus and getting to know the broad range of community members that surround her here. What is most impressive from a student's perspective, is that, despite all of her other commitments in her first months as president, she has already made time to meet and greet students on campus. During the campus-wide picnic after Convocation, for example, Stewart made a point of stopping at each of the tables under the tent and introducing herself to the people sitting at each of them. In addition, a campus-wide email announced Stewart's open hours each week in Café Opus, continuing the tradition of the president of the college being accessible to students for their complaints and concerns.

While her amiable and accessible nature will take Stewart far in student popularity, the college as an institution needs a concrete plan of action to continue its upward academic trend of the last few years. Of course, Stewart will need to spend more time on campus before she can adequetely form a plan to address the needs of the institution. However, in the mean time, *The Spectator*, has some suggestions for areas that the college should address in the future.

First, Hamilton College needs to continue to address the issue of diversity on campus. This is a catch-word on nearly all small, liberal arts campuses throughout the northeast; however, more than just paying lip service to the idea of religous, economic, and racial diveristy, Stewart can help contribute to a concrete plan of action, which could add to steps that the college has taken in the past few years to attract a more diverse student body. Hamilton can and should be a trend setter; taking a leadership role on this issue for colleges of our size.

Second, Stewart should evaluate the ever-growing tuition costs and consider a tuition freeze, similar to what some other institutions have done in recent years. With the cost of a Hamilton education rising at a rate greater than inflation, attending Hamilton College becomes more difficult for many students every year. Because part of the college selection process does involve the costs of an education, students who begin their Hamilton careers at one price, shouldn't be asked to pay even more once they have begun.

Third, part of a college's responsability to its students is to give them the best possiable living conditions. With McEwen closing on the weekends, students are facing over-crowded situations in Commons. Although Hamilton's budget is tight, the $80,000 needed to re-open McEwen should become a priority.

Taking on a new role is always challenging, especially one as demanding as that of a college president. President Stewart has a lot before her. Thus far, she has handeled her job with poise, and has shown a genuine respect for the many different members of the Hamilton Community. *The Spectator* wishes President Stewart the best of luck and thanks her for her efforts to date.

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*from **Faculty**, page 2*

with "In today's world ..."

What interests do you have outside of academics? (i.e. what do you do in your spare time/on the weekends?)

I play bass in an Ithaca-area zydeco and roots rock band called The MacGillicuddies, I enjoy hiking and skiing, and every so often I start writing a novel I know I'll never finish. It's always one that really ought not be finished.

Jenny Irons
Sociology

What are your specific academic areas of interest and what about these areas fascinates you?

I study social inequality and social change. In particular, I'm interested in how the boundaries that divide groups of people into categories (like race, ethnicity, and gender) are created, reproduced, and altered through social interaction and institutions. Questions regarding such processes fascinate me because they are important for understanding not only why groups of people have differential access to societal resources and rewards, but also how that differential access can be challenged and changed.

What drew you to apply for a position at Hamilton?

I became a professor because I went to a liberal arts college where I took engaging, challenging courses that changed my life in many ways. Throughout graduate school, it was my goal to return to a similar place to (hopefully) share this experience with others. I was drawn to Hamilton—cold and snow aside—because of its reputation as a school that attracts intelligent, committed students who like to be challenged. The nearby Adirondacks didn't hurt, either!

What are you most looking forward to this year? What are you most concerned about?

After several years of teaching large classes at a state university, I am most excited about teaching small classes and getting to know the students (sociology majors in particular!).

After growing up in the South and living in Tucson, I am most concerned about the approaching snow, ice, and wind.

What's one thing that students should know about you (about your teaching style or personality) before signing up for your classes?

I value the reflexivity of the learning process—meaning I expect students to be prepared and engaged with the material so that we can have productive discussions, instead of solo performance lectures. And occasionally I do pronounce words with a Southern accent.

What interests do you have outside of academics? (i.e. what do you do in your spare time/on the weekends?)

Outside of academics, I love to play with my dog, run, hike, practice yoga, and read fiction.

Pamela Price
Geology

What are your specific academic areas of interest and what about these areas fascinates you?

My academic interests are paleoceanography, marine geology, stable isotope chemistry, micropaleontology, and marine sediments, orbital cycles, ice ages. The list is endless, it seems.

The wonderful thing about studying the earth is the interconnectedness of it all. It's all fascinating. It is all tied together.

What drew you to apply for a position at Hamilton?

I enjoyed every minute of my undergraduate experience. It opened up a whole world for me and gave the basis to move head and succeed. When asked what kind of job I want, I would answer that my ideal job would be to teach at a college similar to where I went to undergraduate (Hobart and William Smith College). So when I saw the position advertised I jumped on it.

What are you most looking forward to this year? What are you most concerned about?

I have been away from teaching for a while and I really missed it. I am looking forward teaching. I am teaching three new courses. It takes several iterations of teaching a course before you really work the kinks out. I am concerned about how many kinks I have in these new courses. Because I am a sabbatical replacement, I will not get the opportunity to work the kinks out of these courses.

What's one thing that students should know about you (about your teaching style or personality) before signing up for your classes?

I am very enthusiastic. There are so many cool things going on in Geology and Oceanography and I want to expose them to. However, understanding the basic processes is critical to their success as a geologist or environmentalist. I always come back to the basics before I jump into the neat new things. I am also a stickler for turning in assignments or papers on time. I think it is not fair to the other students and it makes it more difficult to grade fairly, in my opinion.

What interests do you have outside of academics? (i.e. what do you do in your spare time/on the weekends?)

When I am not teaching I enjoy hiking and sailing. I have a large dog and he takes up a fair amount of time. I am an Oceanographer in the Navy Reserves and I am a Commanding Officer of Naval Reserve Meteorology and Oceanography Unit in Norfolk, VA, so I have to fly back once a month and earn a paycheck. The reality is, much of my reserve work is done at night or on weekends up here before I ever get to Norfolk.

David Rideout
Physics

What are your specific academic areas of interest and what about these areas fascinates you?

gravitational physics—theoretical, computational, and experimental

I am hopeful that some day increased understanding in these areas will be helpful for space exploration. Also the fundamental aspect of quantum gravity is very exciting.

What drew you to apply for a position at Hamilton?

Advertisement with Malcolm MacCallum's gravitational physics mailing list.

What are you most looking forward to this year?

I am looking forward to the opportunity to pursue my research as I wish, and also to teach some excellent students.

What interests do you have outside of academics? (i.e. what do you do in your spare time/on the weekends?)

Outdoor activities—sailing, canoeing, hiking, camping, biking, etc, church, and home repair.

Jodi Schorb
English

What are your specific academic areas of interest and what about these areas fascinates you?

Captivity narratives-prison writing, slave narratives, "Indian captivity" narratives, Japanese-American internment poetry and prose. Why, in this so called "land of the free," is so much of our national literature about the experience of captivity? I'm interested in the ambiguities and paradoxes that define American literary and cultural identity. I read widely and incorporate a range of texts in classes, from the "classic" writers of ambiguity like Hawthorne, Melville, and Dickinson to the more anxious

*see **Faculty**, page 18*

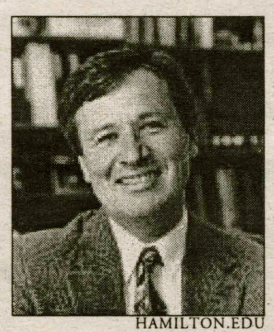
Search committee formed in wake of Fuller resignation

by Ian Mandel '06
News Editor

Late last spring, then Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Richard Fuller abruptly ended his nine-year tenure at Hamilton College. Then President Gene Tobin announced the news in an all-student email, writing that Fuller was "leaving the College for personal reasons."

Tobin characterized Fuller as "a charismatic ambassador for the College," adding that the student recruitment plan undertaken by the former Dean had "achieved record numbers of applications, an increasingly competitive acceptance rate, and, most importantly, an academically talented and diverse student body."

HAMILTON.EDU
Lora Schilder


HAMILTON.EDU
Richard Fuller

Tobin did not elaborate on why Fuller was leaving, but stated that "Beginning today, Lora Schilder has agreed to assume responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the Admission and Financial Aid Office until a permanent successor is identified."

Schilder, who has worked in Admissions for over twenty years, has held the position of Acting Dean of Admission and Financial Aid for the four months and five days that have elapsed since the announcement.

Fuller preferred not to reveal the reasons for his resignation.

"I left for personal reasons and I'd like to leave it at that," Fuller stated late Thursday evening, adding that "I was really privileged to work at Hamilton for nine years and to work with Gene Tobin."

On August 14, Hamilton's nineteenth President, Joan Hinde Stewart announced in an all-student email the formation of a search committee to find Fuller's replacement.

The committee, as announced in August, includes Chairperson Katheryn Doran, Associate Professor of Philosophy; Mary Ann Atkinson, Financial Aid Assistant; Meredith Harper Bonham, Executive Assistant to the President; Mike Debraggio, Executive Director of Communications; Amy Owens Goodfriend '82; Sarah Karalunas '04; Lora Schilder, Acting Dean of Admission and Financial Aid; Chet Siuda '70, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Sue Viscomi, Associate Professor of Physical Education; Stephen Wu, Assistant Professor of Economics.

Stewart informed students that the Isaacson, Miller search firm, the same firm that aided the college in last year's presidential search, would be assisting the committee.

According to Bonham, Isaacson, Miller representatives visited campus several weeks ago to speak with different groups to familiarize themselves with Hamilton's admission process and with the college itself.

The search committee and Isaacson, Miller will work together to draft a position statement that will guide the search with the college's best interest in mind. Bonham was confident that the position statement would be released to the public by the end of September.

The committee will be looking for a candidate who will help maintain the college's reputation as one of America's top liberal arts colleges.

"I think we want someone who is going to continue the progress that's been made over the last ten years with Rit Fuller in place in terms of selectivity and quality," Schilder said.

"Important in everyone's mind is the fact that, again, we're going to continue the trajectory that the college has enjoyed under Dean Fuller's watch and continue to enroll the very best class that we possibly can," Bonham stated.

"In a national search, the college needs to attract someone who is committed to the liberal arts and who is excited about working with a number of constituencies and has a proven record in a selective college admissions environment," Fuller commented.

The timetable for the search process is not yet known.

"We would love to have a new dean in place as soon as possible... but certainly prior to the start of the next academic year," Bonham said.

Schilder will remain as acting dean until a replacement is hired. She does not forsee any problems because of the experience of the Admissions staff.

"Whenever you lose a major player in your office, there are obviously bumps, but I think that we are in a good position to be able to weather those bumps better than a lot of offices because of the seniority of the staff," Schilder commented.

Fuller and his family are currently considering several options in and out of the area.

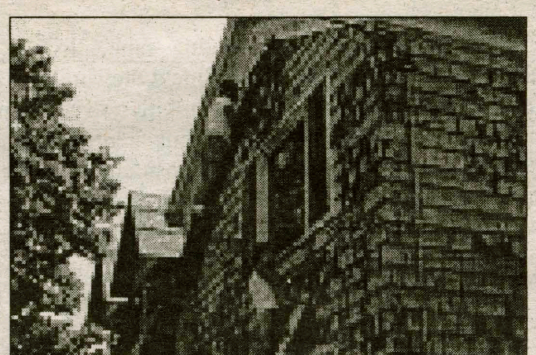
Urban Service Experience provides alternative to Adirondack Adventure

by Ann Horwitz '06
News Contributor

"What's Adirondack Adventure?" Just about everyone on this campus can answer that question. Hundreds of entering freshmen participate in the popular pre-orientation program each year.

"What's the USE Program?" That question is more of a stumper for most Hamiltonians. The USE-Urban Service Experience is a sister program to Adirondack Adventure, and runs concurrently with it. Students who participate in USE spend the week before orientation in Utica, participating in various service projects. This past year, the second that USE was offered as a pre-orientation program, nine entering freshmen participated.

They slept on the floor of a downtown Utica church, and over the week helped out at soup kitchens and halfway houses such as Hope House and Rescue Mission. They played with kids at the JCTOD Youth Outreach Program, and painted the new headquarters of For the Good, an organization that works to rehabilitate Utica's impoverished Cornhill neighborhood, among other activities. For the students who chose this program over AA, reasons ranged from an attraction to the service element unique to USE, to their simple disdain for the idea of spending a week in the mountains without showers.


HAMILTON.EDU
USE particpants helped out by scraping and painting houses.

"I chose USE, honestly, because I hate camping and wouldn't have been much use in the mountains. At the end of the program, though, I realized how much I'd enjoyed helping people," comments Cassie Magesis '07. Beyond wishing to provide an alternative for non-outdoorsy types and an opportunity for service, the shapers of the program founded USE because they believed that Hamilton students should feel a connection to the surrounding community. The College Chaplain, Rev. Jeff McArn, runs both the summer USE and its January counterpart program, during which students return to campus a few days before the start of the spring semester to perform service in Utica. "The way I see it, there's a doorway that needs to be opened. In the same way that study abroad is a good idea, service in Utica creates an opportunity to broaden educational horizons. It reinforces the idea that our lives are not so self-contained as we sometimes imagine them to be," he states.

Of course, for many Hamilton

see USE, page 7

210 first years participate in Adirondack Adventure

by Emma Furman '07
News Contributor

On the morning of August 18th, while the rest of Hamilton's incoming freshman class was still shopping for school supplies and finishing up summer jobs, 210 were already arriving on campus, their cars packed with the strange combination of dormitory decorations and a plethora of camping equipment. These students were set to participate in the 19th year of the Adirondack Adventure program, a pre-orientation bonding experience where groups of about eight or nine students go on different camping trips in the Adirondacks, accompanied by two experienced leaders.

These leaders had been selected well in advance by a rigorous process, ensuring that they had sufficient experience to guide students through their trips, as well as enough enthusiasm and energy to guide them emotionally through the daunting process of entering college. Kaitlin Bear'05, one of the leaders on the Raquette River upstream trip, embodies both of these characteristics: "I really enjoy the outdoors," she said, and "I really liked the idea of bringing kids out there- I liked the idea that I would be the first person they met from Hamilton."

Participants spent their first two nights sleeping in campus dormitories and their first two days learning essential camping skills, as well as participating in a multitude of ice- breaking activities designed to get students to interact. On the first day, students spread out to cover the soccer field, creating a human map to illustrate their diverse homes, ranging from nearby locations in upstate New York, to places as far away as Nepal and South Africa.

WWW.CARLHEILMAN.COM
An Adirondacks landscape.

The morning of August 20 was early for AA leaders and freshmen, as they loaded up their buses and vans with all of their gear. The students departed for 24 different trips that morning, including rock climbing, sea kayaking, canoeing, and backpacking excursions, as well as trips that combined canoeing and hiking, and two different arts trips. Participants spent the next three days in the woods, sometimes even sleeping out under the stars. Most students found that the troubles they

see A. A., page 7

First years create bonds, gain experience in nature

from AA, page 6

experienced only brought the groups closer together. Paxton Ramsdell was a member of the Long Lake backpack and canoe trip: "When our bus driver dropped us off in the wrong spot, we had to hike eight to ten extra miles....our group really came together over that obstacle."

HAMILTON.EDU

AA leaders welcome freshmen to Hamilton.

Because the program accepted students regardless of prior camping knowledge, the trips were comprised of people with varied levels of experience, ranging from seasoned campers, to those who had never been in a tent before.

At the conclusion of their camping trips, students were met by busses and vans which tbrought them to several different ropes courses in the Adirondacks: From August 23rd until August 25th, the team-building continued there, as students navigated the elements alone or together, but always giving support to their fellow Adirondack Adventurers.

After 3 days spent at the ropes courses, students headed back to campus, to be greeted by warm showers and comfortable beds, but also by a new group of peers and friends that had come together in the wilderness to navigate up a river, orienteer through the woods, and form friendships that will never be forgotten. The last night ended in a banquet, where the changes in students were unmistakable; tables were full of enthusiastic and confident first years. There was a new sense of comradery among the participants, and Bear '07 remarked that they had come a long way from their first night spent on campus.

They were "all very quiet," and "didn't know what to expect," since they were "about to be thrown out into the woods with two crazy leaders."

The same group of students at the closing banquet was anything but quiet, and through everything they had experienced together, the incoming freshmen of this year's AA program entered Hamilton with not only some new tans and an appreciation for the outdoors, but a feeling of ease among the other students, and the ability to start their education here with confidence, and lasting groups of friends.

HAMILTON.EDU

Margot Rockwell '05 and Sarah Bardenett '04.

Students USE Utica

from USE, page 6

students, entering a city like Utica can be daunting. It is somewhat of a run-down city, and it is badly in need of economic rejuvenation. USE students come into direct contact with the city's homeless, its poor, and its underprivileged. "It's definitely run its course; it's been going downhill. It's clear that there are a lot of people working hard to get the city back to where it was," says Josh Agins '07.

USE participants work on a house. HAMILTON.EDU

Despite the discomfort of being faced with the hardships right in Hamilton's backyard, all USE participants found the experience rewarding, and certainly educational. "On a personal level, you make great friends with the other participants. On a higher level, it's a worthy cause. In all, it's a great bonding experience, and the service is humbling and empowering at the same time," John Pappano '06, who participated in USE last year, and led it this year along with Rev. McArn, Jeannine Murtaugh from the Career Center, math professor Sally Cockburn, Lauren Goldenberg '06, and the writer of this article.

The USE Program isn't all work and no play. This year, nights consisted of movie-watching, Chinese dinners, and trips to the Ice Cream Factory in nearby Chadwicks, NY. Obviously, the program has some perks which AA can't match. The USE students, do, however, join AA groups in the mountains at the end of the week for high-ropes activities. In essence, the purpose of the program matches the purpose of AA: to give entering freshmen the opportunity to meet classmates and ease their transition into college life. USE, however, gives students the opportunity to serve others and make an impact on the surrounding community, while at the same time meeting new friends and beginning to carve out their niche at Hamilton.

If you are interested in participating in the January USE, or in learning about other Utica service opportunities, contact Haley Reimbold '06, Director of HAVOC (Hamilton Action Volunteer Outreach Coalition), at hreimbol@hamilton.edu. USE is a great way to be introduced to the countless service opportunities mere minutes away from our idyllic Hill.

So, now, when people ask you, "What's the USE Program?" you can give them an educated answer.

Construction gives campus a face lift

from North Hall, page 1

was completely gutted and a whole new floor plan was put in place.

North no longer has quads or its infamous group shower rooms; instead, the building has only doubles and triples and separate stalls for each shower. In addition, North has entirely new heating, electrical, and lighting systems, the first floor is handicap accessible, and it house only 91 people compared to the 112 that lived there in previous years.

"North was updated because it needed a number of standard renovations...we generally update dorms about once every 40 years," said Bellona on the 1.8 million dollar project. Student response to the new North has been mixed. New residences enjoy the more spacious living environment while former Northies lament the loss of its signature quads. "I feel like I lost my freshman year...it's completely different now," said one former resident.

The extension of Martin's Way onto the North side of campus had been in plans since the construction of the path in 1990 but no acceptable concept had been presented until recently. Aside from the expansion of the path, several "seating walls" have been built and a plaza with tables and chairs has been added as an outdoor annex of commons. This 300,000 venture represents Phase One of the Martin's Way extension. The Martin's Way extension will culminate with the completion of the Science Center as the path will run from KJ to the new Science Center.

Over the course of this academic year, physical plant will begin renovations of the old Psi Upsilon House. The building will have doubles and singles and will be ready to house students for fall 2004. Aside from this modernization, physical plant has yet to approve any other constructions for next summer.

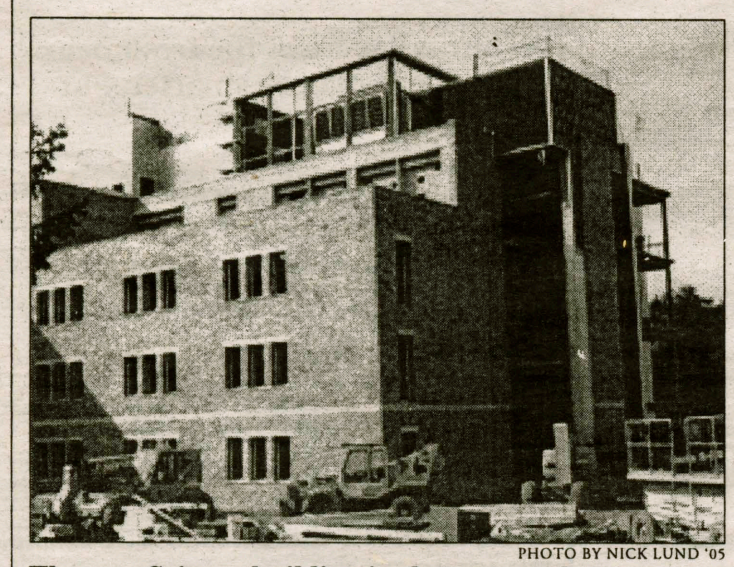


PHOTO BY NICK LUND '05

The new Science building is almost complete.

President Stewart is the first female President of Hamilton

from President Stewart, page 1

from Yale University in 1970, having graduated summa cum laude in 1965 from St. Joseph's College, a small, private, liberal arts institution in Brooklyn, New York.

Stewart's has written several books and numerous articles, essays and book reviews, and has been a frequent speaker at professional conferences both in the United States and abroad. She is the recipient of fellowships from Yale University, the National Humanities Center and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and has been a fellow at the Université Paul Valéry in Montpellier, France, a visiting scholar at Oxford University in England, and a fellow at the Liguria Study Center for the Arts and Letters in Genoa, Italy. Hamilton's 19th president is married to Philip Stewart, the Benjamin E. Powell Professor of Romance Studies at Duke University. He has served as chair of romance studies and of Duke's Academic Council, and is the former president of the American Association of Teachers of French. The Stewarts have a daughter, who is a graduate of Haverford College and is pursuing a Ph.D. in German at Indiana University in Bloomington, and a son, who is a student at Prescott College in Arizona.

Portions of this article were previously published on the Hamilton College website and Hamilton College Alumni review.

Halfway done... Am I happy at Hamilton? Yes.

by Bill Chenevert '05
NEWS EDITOR

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, this is what I did this summer: I worked at a camp centered out of Yale University. This program, called Explo, attracts staff members from elite, selective liberal arts colleges and universities.

They do this by active recruitment at these and only these schools, which is an entirely different issue, but in any case I ended up spending seven very intense weeks with college students from all over the country. They were my age and some a little bit older, but they were all from a host of great schools: Macalester, Kenyon, Wellesley, Colby, Yale, Harvard, and Bowdoin, to name a few.

Those first conversations inevitably turned to, "Where do you go to school?" "Hamilton College in New York," I would say. It almost never failed to elicit the response, "Oh, I've never heard of it," or "Where's that?" Describing Hamilton's geographic location was always painful - "Uh, 10 minutes from Utica, 45 minutes from Syracuse, and an hour and a half west of Albany. No? Well, it's a 4-5 hour drive northwest from New York City."

At first it upset me. I thought to myself, "Who are these educational snobs?! Is Hamilton that obscure?" and "You know, I probably could have gone to a college with a little more pop culture clout."

Since my matriculation two years ago, I've tirelessly wrestled with this concept: Is my Hamilton education everything it's cracked up to be? I mean, good God - the tuition is going through the roof.

I know friends at other highly respected liberal-arts colleges whose families don't have to make the kinds of sacrifices mine do for me to go here.

In my case, I feel Hamilton is worth it. Entering my junior year I couldn't be happier to be at Hamilton. Right now is an exciting time to be at the College. Changes are happening all over campus.

Of course, North is gorgeous, Psi U promises to be palatial if it opens next fall like it's supposed to, the science building will be a very worthwhile addition to campus, and Martin's Way seems to be something that students are enjoying (rest assured that this Martin's Way project has nothing to do with McEwen closing - these projects are completely independent issues).

Hamilton is becoming increasingly more diverse as we see higher and higher percentages of minorities and international students matriculating.

Residential Life is improving as safety is being addressed with widespread installation of sprinkler systems, residence halls are being renovated and added, and the issue of Greek life on campus is something that still stirs up conversation and debate while providing popular social options.

Nevertheless, one of the most exciting aspects of being at Hamilton right now is our new President. Joan Hinde Stewart delivered an interesting, enthusiastic, and articulate address to the freshmen class during orientation, and to the entire community at Convocation this past Sunday.

In both of these speeches, she has made it abundantly clear that she is excited to be here at Hamilton, that Hamilton College and Stewart will be a good team, and that our first female president has no qualms about undertaking the task of bringing Hamilton to new heights of achievement and recognition.

I don't think very many students read the Alumni review. Stewart is featured in this issue and writes an editorial to alumni and students in the front of the publication.

Her ideas regarding what will be expected of her in terms of actions are promising. She writes, "I believe that the role of a new president is not to arrive with a pre-cooked agenda, but to elicit a collective vision, and to help make that vision a reality."

I urge her to pay close attention to students' ideas in producing this collective vision. However, one thing that she is clearly thinking about is diversity: "Special emphasis must be on helping the College realize its determination to become more diverse. While doing whatever can be done to increase minority and international student enrollments, I hope to lead recruitment efforts in areas of the country that are not currently well represented," she continues.

I'm glad that I attended Convocation this year because

*see **Halfway done,** page 11*

Welcome to college – now, get in line

by R. Andre Chapman '07
INSIGHTS AND IDEAS WRITER

I was placed in the section of the freshman class that got to pick out their classes last - the A-L group. I had planned on being a philosophy major, and I wanted to get a head start on my philosophy courses.

But guess what? By the time I got to the door of the registrar's office, they were writing on the board that all the philosophy courses had been taken.

I was infuriated because I had waited two and a half hours only to not get what I wanted.

Luckily for me, my advisor was the professor that proctored the course that I wanted to take. I asked the registrar for an add slip, and my advisor gladly added me to his already full class. I was so happy and grateful that he would do that for me. I would like to take this moment to thank him for his kindness and generosity: thank you, Professor Werner.

Looking back, I just think about the things that could have happened if I didn't have an advisor as nice as Professor Werner.

The registration process during freshman orientation needs some serious reform. Say, for instance, I wasn't exposed to the course that I wanted to take. Where would that narrow road lead me? Would it lead me to major in something that I didn't want to major in? The registration process is not foolproof and could have caused me great distress during my very first semester at Hamilton.

I know I may sound a little extreme, but it is the little things in life - like choosing one's courses - that make all the difference.

A better idea would be the first come, first serve approach. This way, all the people that wanted specific courses would come first, and the people who didn't really care what they majored in would come last. If registration were conducted in this manner, everybody would be happy.

I know that it is not necessary to declare your major until the end of your sophomore year, but that's not important to me. What's important to me is my ability to try something out if I want to try it out. I don't want to be held back from trying something that I have a great desire to try.

It may seem like I'm being a little greedy. You may even be saying to yourself right now, "He could just get the courses he wants the next semester." In response to that I say, "What do I do until then - take courses that I am not interested in?" I know that college is about risk taking, but I'm already sure of what I want to do. Therefore, this particular risk seems acutely unfair.

Thumbs Up

-The New Late-Night Special at Tony's due to the new Brothel Occupants: A Happy Ending Slice of Pizza.

-Commons one-upping McEwen with the new Sushi experience.

-The George Sargeant Reunion Tour.

-The picnic area outside of Commons.

-The new modern look of North...

-Post-Grad squatters on the Hill.

-The Wall of Bread in Commons; bigger than the one in China.

Thumbs Down

-Freshmen... nice lanyards, jerks.

-The Registrar having more bureacratic red tape than your local DMV.

-The only unread email in your inbox from Pat Raynard updating you on the hours in Commons.

-Campus Safety's new mission to destroy on-campus fun by handing out all 3 strikes in one night.

-... but it's still sub-free.

-The El-Nino-esque weather that has been haunting the Hill since Day One of our arrival.

Deirdre Fenton '04, Avery Schlicher '05, Matt Amoroso '05, Nakul Patel '05

Who Cares?

-Paul and Preston: It's my world, they were only living in it.

-Freshmen guys... Orientaion was fun while it lasted, huh?

-The SAT score of the freshmen class... you may be smarter, but we're cooler.

-Freshmen with no facebook picture... way to start off on the right foot, everyone already hates you.

-The Crew Team's first big match: The most exciting match-up since Seabiscuit vs. War Admiral.

-The Worm... the one thing Debbie Quayle didn't mass email about this summer.

Do you believe in magic?

by Rachel Bennek '07
INSIGHTS AND IDEAS WRITER

COURTESY WWW.HAMILTON.EDU

Anxious prefrosh eagerly sign into Adirondack Adventure registration, officially becoming "first-years."

We've heard about it for years, dreamed of what it would be like, and planned what we would do when we got there. It is essential to improve the quality of one's life and ideal for making connections with the "leaders of tomorrow." So what is this thing that's been built up to be our entire futures? It can be summed up into one simple word: college.

We've all heard it, from our parents, our aunts and uncles, and any other adult who could grab our attention for enough time to tell us that "college was the best four years of my life." They said, "You're in your prime right now, don't take it for granted." Over the past few years I've had more adults than I can count tell me what a great time I was going to have, and how the friends I will make in college would be my true friends for life.

One of my father's closest friends, Jeff, was his college roommate. To this day, Jeff brings his family up from New York City to visit my father and the two of them reminisce about the great times they had, and how they'd give just about anything to be able to relive their experiences: experiences that were so amazing that, even thirty years later, they still warrant hours of conversation.

For me, college was made out to be an amazing, magical place that would make everyone's dreams come true.

It's no wonder I began my freshman year with a romanticized idea of what my college experience would be like. When I arrived, I unpacked my stuff, hugged my parents goodbye and waited for the magic to begin.

Imagine my horror when I suddenly realized I was in a strange building, in a strange town, with hundreds of people I'd never met before, and there didn't seem to be any magic. There were no instant friends, no bonds formed that would clearly last a lifetime, no automatic feelings of comfort and home.

I thought to myself, "Maybe the problem is that I haven't met anyone yet." So I made my way down the hall and introduced myself to a girl on my floor. We went over the basics. "What's your name? Where are you from? How'd you end up at Hamilton? What do you like to do?" After all that information had been cleared up there was a terribly awkward silence followed by me returning dejectedly to my room.

This reality was not the idea of college that I was prepared for, and this was certainly not the college my parents had described. It was at about this time that I started to think back to a point in my life that suddenly seemed very far away; a time when I was in a place that was comfortable and familiar, a place called high school.

High school was a place where I knew everyone's first and last name, what sports they played, and how well they'd done on their AP's. It was a place where I had already proven myself to be a good student, athlete, musician, and citizen. In high school, there was no need for me to worry about auditions or exams. I knew what I was capable of and so did all of my teachers. If I messed up, everyone could just chalk it up to a bad day.

It was also a place where I knew I had good friends to fall back on. Here in college I was alone. It was the first time in my life that I truly had to stand on my own without my friends, family, reputation, or academic standing behind me. It was the first time I'd been truly independent, and it was terrifying. I found myself filled with a self-doubt that I had never experienced and I wasn't quite sure how to handle it.

Gradually, I began to realize that I wasn't the only one who was feeling afraid and unsure. Many of the new students were experiencing the same thing, and each and every student on campus, at one point or another, felt lonely.

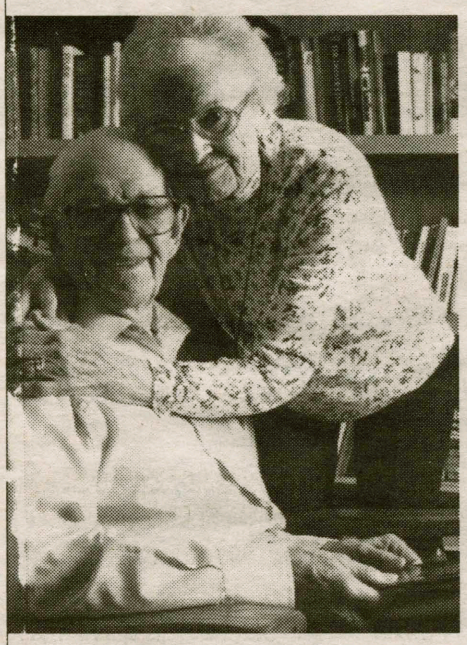
This realization dawned on me when I was talking to a girl who I may one day call a good friend. She said, "I have to keep reminding myself that everyone's feeling the same way. It's not that I'm being left out it's just that people haven't made strong connections yet." It was as if she'd read my mind.

Day by day things are beginning to improve. I am beginning to make friends and feel more at home on campus. I'm getting used to being far away from everything that makes me feel secure, and I am beginning to develop a new life for myself.

I still haven't managed to find the magic that everyone was talking about, but maybe that takes more time. Perhaps only in retrospect will I truly appreciate what I have here at Hamilton.

But, to be honest, I think that the magic is right around the corner. All I have to do is keep believing that I'll find it. After all, it has only been two weeks.

Their smiles say a lot about you.



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Memories of third floor North:
the dorm that shaped my freshman year

by Adam Gordon '06
INSIGHTS AND IDEAS WRITER

The beautiful stone structure glistened in the sunlight, and any fan of architecture could appreciate its classical simplicity. These thoughts, among others, erupted inside my head last fall as I stared at North dorm, my soon-to-be freshman-year home. But then I saw the inside...

With rotting bathrooms, doubles turned into quads, and that awful smell, I was sorely disappointed. We all did our fair share of complaining, and we were entitled to. This was certainly not South dorm. No private bathrooms, no fireplace, and plenty of rodent problems.

But as the year progressed, my view of the dorm changed. I realized that after you looked past the physical status, North was actually the best dorm on campus.

We had more spirit than any other floor or dorm combined. What other residence hall named their IM basketball team after the floor? We went undefeated and captured the B League championship (we're still waiting for those damn t-shirts).

No other dorm had such a good community. We didn't need the palatial bathrooms and wood floors of South to have a good time. Doors were always open. Who would have thought that such an eclectic group of people could get along, let alone survive, in such close quarters?

I enjoyed unlimited KFC with Andy from Kentucky, learned to throw a Frisbee forehand from Eric, and started the mock trial club with my roommate Alex. When I missed NYC, I chatted with Donnell, and K to the G was always there to preview my articles and give me ideas.

And who can forget the legendary Brian Burns, the senior who made condom water balloon-dropping an art form, and was rumored to have fathered over a dozen children during his tenure on the hilltop. (He's still dropping condom water balloons at Georgetown Law.) Ahhh, good times.

We had North groupies as well. Those who were bored of their sub-par living arrangements would flock to our dorm to see friends and socialize, but mostly for the beer. It's not like our dorm was The Plaza, or even a Motel 6. But then it occurred to me that we were just so much livelier than any other dorm.

Since everyone in South had gigantic rooms and their own bathrooms, there was less of a desire to leave the room to socialize. In North, no sane person could survive in his or her cramped quad for more than 2 hours. I'd say by the end of the day I would have been in almost every quad and triple on the floor.

Bathrooms became a forum to discuss school and even life. You haven't experienced North unless you've debated the finer points of existentialism while taking a crap.

We had our own great community and everyone wanted in on what we were up to, a.k.a. PARTIES.

Campus safety should have just moved their headquarters into the North basement. I swear they hung out down there waiting to crash our gatherings. We'd be hanging out, playing ping-pong, and they'd just hop out of the fridge: "We know you're going to use that ball for Beirut!" They would patrol the stairs at least twice a day, and it seemed that there was always a campus safety van lurking outside.

Sometimes we had a little too much fun and all sorts of interesting things went out the window: fire extinguishers, chairs, water pitchers, beer bottles, hand lotion, water balloons, and probably some prospective students from time to time. I can't believe there was no loss of life from all the objects catapulted out the windows in a drunken fury.

North will be different this year. Renovated bathrooms, no more cramped quads, and now it's substance free. Almost everything that made North "North" is no longer. It will surely be quieter, less social, and definitely cleaner. Depending upon who you are, that may not be a bad thing. But it will be different.

It took me a year to realize that the spirit within North lay not in the dirt and grime, but within the walls itself. So I write to you, North inhabitants of 2003-2004, and ask that you keep this spirit of camaraderie and community alive. Even with the different walls, showers, and dorms, remember that the same warm foundation will always be there.

Want to write for I & I?

Get your name in print, and show your parents that their 39k isn't only paying for Boozeday Tuesdays and Thirsty Thursdays.

Contact Allison at adavis, x2089.

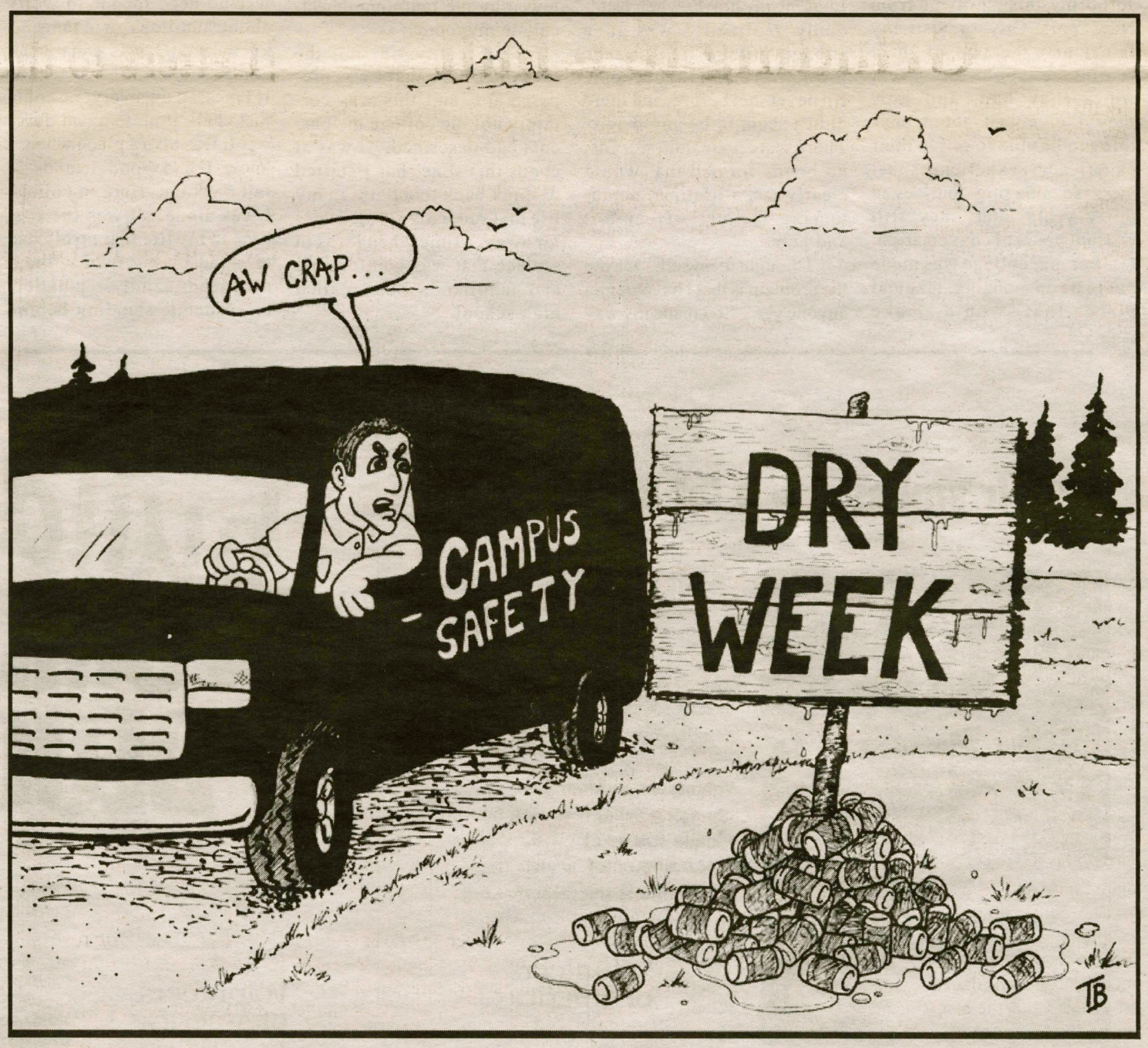
Hamilton definitely worth the price

*from **Halfway done**, page 8*

it was seriously uplifting. That sounds so lame, but honestly, it made me feel like I am at a special college with a distinct vision regarding what a liberal arts education means in this day and age.

It doesn't hurt that I'm living in a seriously sweet little house up the Hill yet in the middle of everything (Saunders). I wanted to reassure our first-years that there will be times when you think that you made a mistake by coming to Hamilton.

You will see though, with time, that Hamilton is a truly unique liberal arts college that is truly going places.



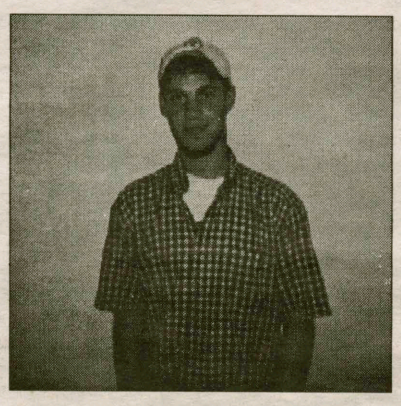
Drawing Criticism: by Tom Booth '06

Hamilton Unscripted:

What has been the best part of your first week at Hamilton?

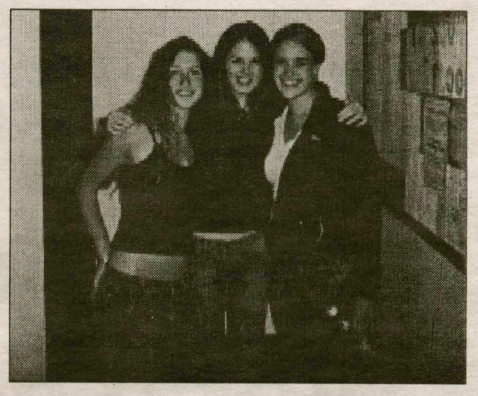
"Free golf!"

-Jeff Gardner '07



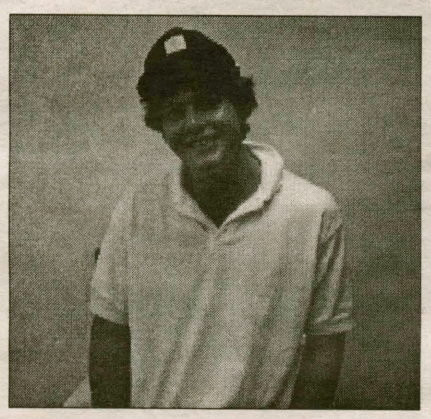
"Two words: flip collars!"

-Natalie Sullivan '07, Amanda Merrow '07 Sarah Bronko '07



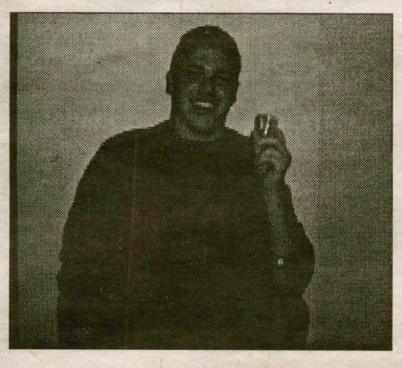
"Pissing on the door."

- David Sands '07



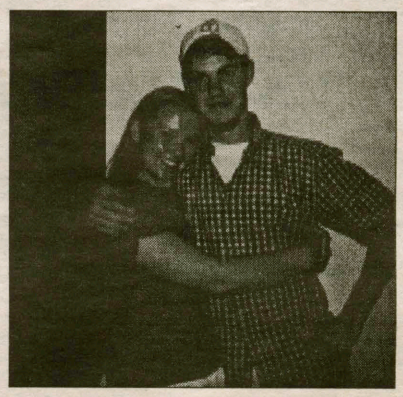
"Thirsty Thursday!"

-Kevin Donegan '07



"Give us 15 more minutes."

-Brendan Sullivian '07, Danielle Massee '07



Compiled by Dan Bleeker '06 and Jon Kuhl '06, Photos by Aram Kudurshian '06

Grinding to a halt

by Blake Erb '05
INSIGHTS AND IDEAS WRITER

Remember middle school dances? Those cheap decorations in your gymnasium or cafeteria? The DJ playing from the snack bar? The Electric Slide? The Macarena? No? Well I do. I absolutely loved those types of gatherings. Then high school came along, and everything seemed to change. Lots of people became too cool for dancing and clumped in the corners of the room. Still, there was always a group that was dancing and goofing around and having tons of fun.

Then college came along. I thought that things would rebound in the party and dancing scene. Crazy college students partying in frat houses, or in Hamilton's case, Bundy dining hall, doing wild things and having a blast.

I'll admit that many students do wild things and have a blast; it's just not in the way that I hoped. I know what you're thinking, "Oh no, he's going to tell us that drinking is bad, blah, blah, blah." Nope.

Students don't DANCE anymore. What happened to all the fun dances we did as kids? It seems that the only dance people do anymore is "the grind."

Grinding has always been a negative term in my book. "I need to grind out a paper." "I hope I don't grind my fist against the wall when I try to punch you." You know what I mean.

For those of you who don't know what "grinding" is, let me explain. Grinding is when dance partners dance real close to each other and one rubs his or her pelvic region against the others pelvic or buttocks region.

Sounds fun, eh? Well, I'm sure it is for many of the participants, but frankly, I don't want to see it or feel it. If I want to see people virtually having sex standing up, I'll get on the Hamilton network and search for some porn. I'm sure there is something out there.

On another note, this type of contact is usually contact I reserve for people that I know fairly well. Before I rest my pelvic region against yours, there are a few things that I want to know about you. What's your name? How old are you? Favorite color? Do you like Scooby-Doo? What kind of music do you listen to? Do you have crabs?

Questions like these provide vital pieces of information about your dance partner. Who knows? Maybe someday in the future, people will carry around huge pieces of plastic that they can put between themselves and their dance partner so that they are safe... like dental dams but for the whole body. A full body dance condom!

I think the problem is that "grinding" as a way of dancing is being spread by peer pressure and a lack of dancing options.

During one dancing engagement that I attended, I was goofing around and doing some liquid moves with glow sticks. (For those of you who don't know, glow sticks are probably the coolest things on the planet Earth. This is not an opinion but a cold, hard fact of life.)

As I was doing this incredibly cool dance with my incredibly cool glow sticks, I was blatantly told, "Blake! That's SO five years ago." I'm sorry! I obviously didn't see the flashing lights that indicated the Dancing Police had arrived.

So I turned around with a witty retort resting on my lips, only to see that my critic was bigger than me. I quickly walked away.

As one can see, "grinding" itself is not an evil; it is the monopoly that it has created in dancing environments that makes it such a threat to those people that thrive on skanking, doing the "Robot," "Mashed Potato," "The Twist," slam dancing, break dancing, and the slowly dying art form of line dancing.

However, I will continue to fight the good fight. You can continue grinding; I will be doing the "Funky Chicken" in the corner. As Hillary Duff so wisely said, "Why not take a crazy chance? Why not do a crazy dance?"

Letters to the Editor Policy

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1. Submissions are due by 6:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before publication. Submissions can be sent by email to spec@hamilton.edu or to the individual I&I editor (adavis@hamilton.edu). The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.

2. Letters should be no longer than 650 words.

3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.

4. *The Spectator* will not edit letters for misspelling, poor grammar or diction.

5. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.

6. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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Finance, Banking & Consulting	Wednesday,	Sep 10	7:30 pm	Red Pit
Education	Thursday,	Sep 18	7:30 pm	Benedict 105
General Overview	Tuesday,	Sep 23	7:30 pm	Red Pit
Non-Profit	Monday,	Oct 6	7:30 pm	Science Aud
Government	Monday,	Oct 20	7:30 pm	KJ 221
Paralegal	Tuesday,	Oct 21	7:30 pm	Red Pit
Communications	Monday,	Nov 10	7:30 pm	Benedict 105

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Science & Technology

Internet worm infects Hamilton network

Students inundate ITS department with plea's for help

by Aram Kudurshian '06
Science Editor

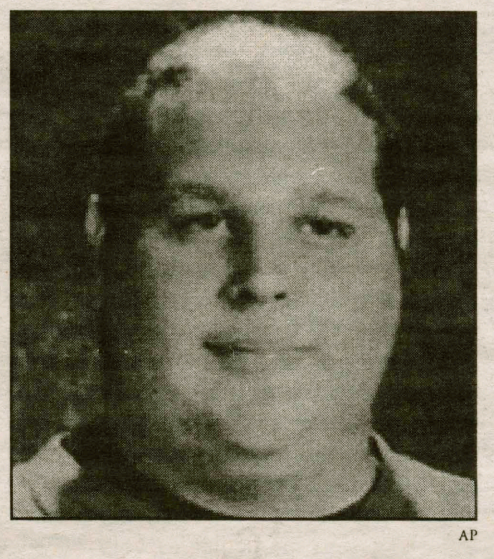
For those running Windows XP on their personal computers, the past week has been more than a slight headache, having to contend with an invisible computer virus that has gone dorm to dorm, room to room, infecting the majority of computers plugged into Hamilton's network. Known simply as the Blaster worm, infected computers experienced symptoms ranging from unidentifiable crashes, network connectivity issues, and uncontrollable restarting.

The worm was first found circulating on the internet in mid-August, exploiting a security hole found in Windows XP, as well as Windows NT and 2000, which would cause infected computers to attack the Microsoft Windows Update web site at a specific time and randomly restart the computer.

Although the intended attack was circumvented by Microsoft, due to the nature of the worm, computers that had been infected continuously attempted to find other susceptible computers to which they can pass the worm. Following in the weeks after, different variants of the worm were released, including the notable MSBlaster.B, programmed by 18-year old Jeffrey Lee Parson who was arrested by the FBI late last week.

The response to this threat by Hamilton's Information Technology Services department, while criticized by some, has been quite thorough and well planned. When the virus was first released, Hamilton was able to block it from entering the campus through the use of their firewall, a hardware device that can block and limit entering data. However, a week later, even though the firewall was in place, a variant of the worm entered Hamilton's network, infecting every Windows XP system plugged into the network. A procedure was initiated the following day to visit each affected system, apply the security patch provided by Microsoft, and of course remove the worm.

In anticipation of incoming freshmen and returning students, Hamilton's ITS department distributed approximately 200 CDs that contained the latest patches and updated removal tools. However, due to the sheer number of students with infected computers returning to campus, the network was yet again infected with the worm. To limit the network activity caused by the worm, as well as to protect computers that had not yet been affected, Hamilton's Network Services department disconnected the network jacks of infected computers. While inconvenient for those infected, this allowed computers that had been patched to still continue to use the internet and Hamilton's various servers.



AP

Jeffrey Lee Parson, arrested for programming the MSBlaster.B computer worm.

During the past week, Hamilton's ITS department has been helping students, free of charge, with the removal of the worm and securing computers against future attacks. In addition to the Blaster removal CDs and instructions freely available in the MPC lab, group appointments can be made this Friday to have professional staff guide those with laptops through the process of patching their machines, removing the worm, and installing Sophos Anti-Virus. Depending on the success of these group help sessions, future sessions may be announced in the upcoming week.

What can you do if you've been affected with the worm or have had your network jack disconnected? Currently, the only solution is to follow the instructions on removing the worm or attending the group help sessions. Once Network Services is sure that your computer and any other computers sharing the same ports are virus free, they will reconnect the appropriate network jacks. For those with desktop computers, appointments can be made through the Help Desk (extension 4181), for technicians to visit the infected computer. With Microsoft Windows XP being a fairly mature operating system, many students have raised the question on why this could have happened now.

The only bittersweet answer available is to quote the programmer of the worm, who included the following message in the source code of the virus, "Billy Gates, why do you make this possible? Stop making money and fix your software!!"

Stargazers benefit from Mars' closeness

Hubble telescope captures the moment with a high resolution photography

by Alex Stamoulis '07
Science Writer

As some of those on campus may have heard, last Wednesday the planet Mars was at its closest point to the earth than it had ever been for 60,000 years.

At a mere 34,646,418 miles, Mars was only 145 times the distance between the earth and the moon (with such vast distances, readers might wonder how its possible to use words such as 'only' and 'mere', but trust me when I say Mars is habitually much further away). The Red Planet will not be this close to earth again until August 28, 2287, only some 284 years away.

Due to its close proximity to Earth last week, Mars was the second brightest object in the nighttime sky, second only to the Moon, being one of the few times in mankind's history where Mars was viewable with the naked eye.

Several governments have taken advantage of Mars' relative closeness to launch space probes, since the time taken to travel to Mars will be at its shortest.

NASA.GOV

NASA documents Mars' closeness with a photography of the Red Planet shot by the space telescope Hubble.

Some fun facts about the Red Planet:

Mars is about half the diameter of Earth and weighs just 1/10th the mass, bearing the closest physical resemblance to Earth out of all the planets.

Mars features polar ice caps, dry streambeds, and even thin clouds of frost, and while the theories about Martians have been all but debunked, scientists still think that primitive single-celled organisms live or have lived on the surface of Mars.

What gives Mars its reddish tint? An iron oxide that is thought to have formed when a chain of chemical reactions ers that then oxidized, precipitated, and blew all over the planet.

While this event was of little importance to astronomers, it did allow amateur stargazers the chance to view Mars and for NASA to capture a couple of high-detail photos. In addition, Sinus Meridiani, where in January 2004, one of NASA's Mars Exploration Rovers is set to land, can be seen on the left of the image.

Science and Technology bookmarks

CNET News
www.cnet.com

New Scientist
www.newscientist.com

NY Times (Science)
www.nytimes.com/pages/science/

NYTimes (Technology)
www.nytimes.com/pages/technology/

Popular Mechanics
www.popularmechanics.com

Popular Science
www.popsci.com

Scientific American
www.sciam.com

SlashDot
www.slashdot.com

Wired
www.wired.com

Interested in writing for the Science and Techology section?

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Features

Hamilton appoints Sociology professor

Jenny Irons travels north to the Hill

by Sarah M. Gould '05
Features Editor

After a wholly Southern upbringing and academic background, Jenny Irons finally made a northern push. Irons, Hamilton's newly appointed Assistant Professor of Sociology, joined the Hamilton faculty this fall after completing her doctorate this past May at the University of Arizona, Tucson.

Irons grew up in Tupelo, Mississipi, a small city of about 35,000 residents in the northeastern part of the state. From the relatively small city of Tupelo, Irons chose to attend Millsaps College in Jackson. She graduated with a degree in sociology and decided to go straight to graduate school. Irons stayed south of the Mason-Dixon line, moving west to the University of Arizona, Tucson. While pursuing her master's and doctoral degrees, Irons focused much of her research on race, gender, sexuality, and culture, all issues she is now tackling with her students at Hamilton.

HAMILTON.EDU
Professor Jenny Irons.

Upon coming so far north to the Hill, the culture shock one might have expected wasn't a problem. Irons cited the small town atmosphere as an important similarity to the town she grew up in. "The people are extremely friendly here. It's a very welcoming place," she said.

However, the students have proven more impressive than anything else. Irons teaches two courses, Sociology of Sexualities and American Society, and finds "the students, as a whole, really prepared, really smart and very eager to go to class." Both courses explore the issues Irons focuses much of her research on. Sociology of Sexualities examines how cultural and societal institutions and interactions affect sexuality while American Society is an introduction to sociological concepts and analytical methods by way of studying particular aspects of American society.

Professor Irons is the author of an article published in *Gender & Society* dealing with the Mississippi civil rights movement and presented many papers at annual meetings of the American Sociological Association.

Irons has a unique understanding of the relationship between professor and student. In her own classes during college and graduate school, Irons "had a fear of speaking" which would result in her heart beating furiously and her face turning red. Since assuming the role of professor, none of these problems have plagued her. She now encourages her students to speak up and to feel comfortable in her presence, citing her own experience of feeling nervous in classroom settings.

In addition to her family in Mississippi, Professor Irons' partner, George, who is originally from Syracuse, is finishing his Ph.D. in sociology at her alma mater, the University of Arizona.

What strikes Irons above all else is the enthusiasm of the student body. "It's really great to be at a place where students are excited to be in the classroom," she said.

Hamilton grads make waves on television and stage

by Sarah M. Gould '05
Features Editor

Several graduates of Hamilton College are making news in the entertainment world. Whether they are stuck on a remote island battling for $1 million or sweeping the Tony Awards, there is no denying that these grads are making their marks.

Andrew Savage, a graduate of Hamilton College, will be appearing on the newest installment of the reality show, "Survivor." Savage is one of 16 people from every corner of the country who will duel it out for the ultimate prize of $1 million.

"Survivor: Pearl Islands" is the seventh version of the CBS show since its inception three years ago. The newest batch of contestants was announced on August 28 on CBS's "The Early Show." The group - divided into two tribes - was relegated to two different islands, known as the Pearl Islands, off the coast of Panama.

Savage is a member of the Class of 1985 at Hamilton. From the Hill, he went on to pursue his Juris Doctorate in Law at the University of Cincinnati. He is a partner with Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon, a law firm in Chicago, where he specializes in intellectual property and entertainment law.

Prior to his current position at the Chicago law firm, Savage, 40, owned an import/export company based out of South Africa.

HAMILTON.EDU
Andrew Savage '85.

His wife, Stephanie is from Mauritius, an island off of the coast of Southeastern Africa. The couple has two daughters, Mackenzie and Skyleur.

The show is set to premier on CBS, Thursday, September 18 at 8 p.m. (ET/PT)

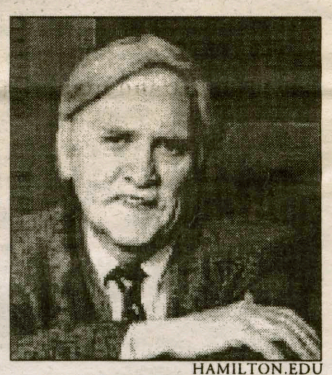
Earlier this summer, Tom Meehan's Broadway musical *Hairspray*, came away from the 2003 Tony's with eight awards. Meehan, '51, co-wrote the book on which the play was based with Mark O'Donnell. The musical was adapted from the 1988 John Waters movie, which dealt with race relations and rock 'n' roll.

Hairspray was honored as Best Musical and, in a direct homage to Meehan and O'Donnell, the musical was also honored with the Best Book of a Musical award. The award was Meehan's third. He was honored in 2001 for *The Producers* and in 1977 for *Annie*. Marissa Jaret Winokur was awarded Best Actress in a Musical but left the show this past August. The show will continue with Kathy Brier playing the lead role.

Bronson Picket, a 1993 Hamilton graduate, is currently costarring in the Lifetime series "Wild Card."

Picket majored in theater while he was a student on the Hill and moved to New York City after he graduation. After a stint as lead singer for the band Pull, Picket shifted his focus back to acting. Picket appeared on the soap operas "As the World Turns" and "Another World" and made his film debut in "The Real Blonde." "Wild Card" airs on Lifetime, Saturdays at 9 p.m. (ET/PT)

TONYAWARDS.COM
The Broadway musical Hairspray starring Winokur.


HAMILTON.EDU
Tom Meehan '51.

Will Hamilton's streaking tradition continue?

by Gregory Leiman '07
Features Contributer

Much of Hamilton's charm is derived not only from its massive brownstone buildings, picturesque hilltop vistas, and close proximity to the Adirondack Mountains, but also by the number of proud traditions it fosters. One such tradition here on the Hill is the Varsity Streaking Team.

Many of you might remember Matt Stringer '03, the man who long symbolized the best and brightest that the liberal arts college has to offer. While all things must pass, Matt Stringer's impression on the Hamilton community will continue to inspire those students left in his wake. A suitable replacement for Stringer has been found living on the dark side of campus. That replacement is Dillon Amseo Prime.

"People say I am a dead ringer for this red-head that used to go here," says Prime. Be it his unruly mop of red hair or his penchant for "healthy risk taking," Prime has been continuously compared to Stringer. However, there is so much more to the man that is Dillon Prime than his uncanny resemblance to a Hamilton legend.

Raised in the Adirondacks, Dillon Prime is a seasoned outdoorsman. While most of the students here seem to hail from the suburbs and cities, Prime stands out as a self-proclaimed mountain man. "I'm thoroughly amazed at all of this electricity and running water," said the burly Prime. In addition to his obvious gravitation to the Outing Club, Prime plans to involve himself with the student government here at Hamilton, saying that he intends to become "well acquainted with the students' bodies." Whatever that means, it's clear that Dillon is a devotee of fun.

Some of Dillon's hobbies include the consumption of spirituous beverages, rock climbing, hiking, and picking things out of his 'fro. In spite of his wild ways, Prime considers himself a serious political thinker as well as a staunch liberal, saying that he likes grass roots political activism and would like to lead a charge to impeach Bush.

While it may be a good while before we see Dillon Prime change the world, he'll be here at Hamilton for the next four years. Check him out in the Freshman Faces Book and when you see him on the rugby field or dining at McEwen, you'll recognize him instantly. If you're not much of a rugby fan or primarily eat at Commons, don't worry. Chances are that you'll see Prime running around naked like his famous predecessor, Matt Stringer.

Want to write for Features? We need you!

Please contact Sarah Gould if you're interested
sgould@hamilton.edu

Arts & Entertainment

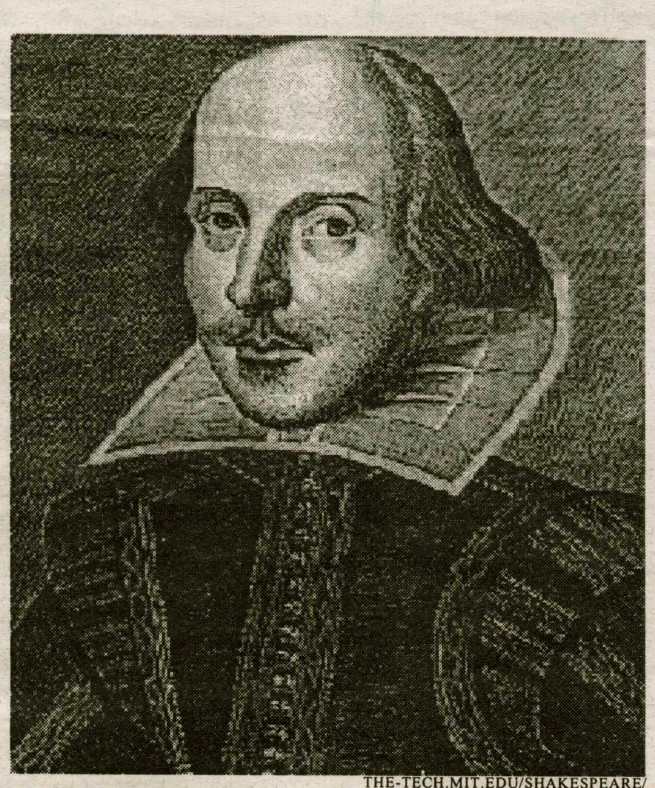
Untitled At Large presents: *Twelfth Night*

Blake Erb '05 gives you the inside look on the new production

Bored with the same old weekend activities? Want to see something new and exciting? Your wish will be granted when Untitled-at-Large presents their unique version of William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" in the Grant Garden of Root Glen on Saturday, Sept. 6 and Sunday, Sept 7 free and open to the public at 4 pm.

The members of Untitled-at-Large have undertaken the arduous task of preparing an entire performance in one week. The actors were cast at the end of the spring semester and required to memorize their lines before they returned to campus. The actors have been rehearsing since Saturday, Aug. 30 and continue to rehearse through Friday, Sept. 5. Co-director, Shannon Fitzsimons '05 remarked on this unique approach to putting together a play: "It required the actors to do a lot more independent work on their own and make a lot more choices."

Jumping right into a play upon returning to school is a difficult task to ask of anyone. The actors involved, however, are very excited, although probably a little nervous as well. Fitzsimons said, "I think the adrenaline is definitely pumping. The pressure to create a complete production in a week is very strong." Co-directors, Fitzsimons and Nate Williams '04 have changed the setting of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" to the US in the 1920s. This setting is aimed to reflect the setting created by F. Scott Fitzgerald in the American classic, "The Great Gatsby". This comparison is being made because, according to Fitzsimons, "Orsino's love for Olivia is very reminiscent of Jay Gatsby's love for Daisy." As Fitzsimons stated in an all-campus email, "Twelfth Night" is a "classic tale of mistaken identities and misplaced love." Fitzsimons stated, "It is a very convoluted plot with a lot of really great characters. It is a wonderful ensemble piece." William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" is believed by many to be one of his finest plays and one of his most humorous comedies.



THE-TECH.MIT.EDU/SHAKESPEARE/

Only a forehead that massive could contain such an amount of creative ability.

In addition to this already remarkable production being put together by Untitled-at-Large, the actors are raising the bar one more level by performing the play outside in the Grant Garden of the Root Glen. Fitzsimons said, "It has a lot of great natural architecture". Fitzsimons and Williams are using this unique setting to allow the audience to experience the action up close and be able to participate in the performance. Fitzsimons said, "The action surrounds the audience. They sit in the center and the action will go on in front of them, behind them and to all side of them." One will have to be alert so as to not miss any part of the play. Upperclassmen will remember that a similar outdoor setting was used for Untitled-at-Large's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" two years ago deep in the trails of the Root Glen.

This presentation of "Twelfth Night" by the Hamilton College students in Untitled Large is co-sponsorsed by the Hamilton College Theatre Department. The cast of 23 students will be performing the play on Saturday, Sept. 6 and Sunday, Sept 7 at 4pm in the Grant Garden of the Root Glen. In the unfortunate case of rain, the production will be performed in the Events Barn of the Beinecke Student Activities Village. Either way make sure you try and catch the show.

Harry Potter and the Return of Reading

Meagan Spooner '07 on the world of fantasy literature in Potter's wake

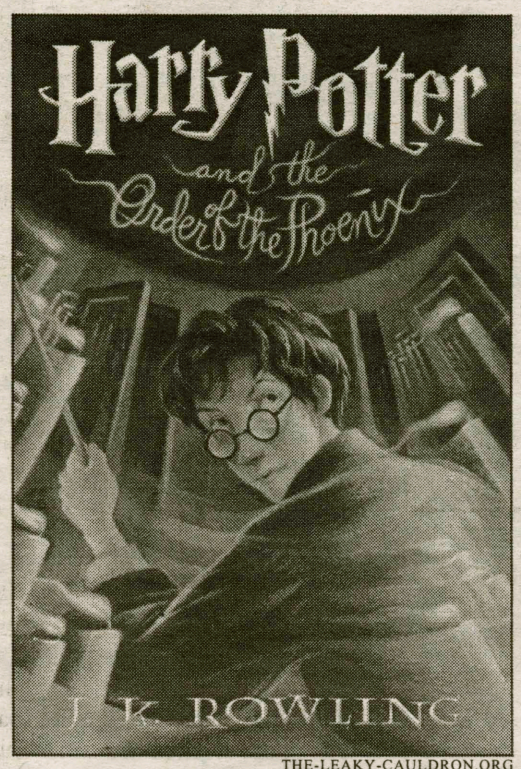
It was a pleasant summer's evening, only a few minutes past midnight, and crowds of strangers in odd costumes filled the sidewalks outside the bookstore, chatting and grinning in anticipation. To most people this scene would be unusual, if not flat-out bizarre; but to a fan of J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series, it's completely normal.

The fifth book in the widely popular series, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, was officially released in stores on June 21st of this year. The day it became available for pre-ordering through online bookstores such as Amazon.com, it became a number-one best-seller - before it even had a price. Nevertheless, there were still hordes of excited fans who spent hours in the middle of the night waiting in lines at their local bookstores just to get their hands on the latest installment in the series.

What is it about these books that makes them so popular? What causes otherwise normal people to stand in line for two hours at midnight just so that they can buy the next day without waiting in an interminable line, and without staying up all night?

For some, it's simply the fun of reading something that millions of other people are reading at the same time. It can make you feel like a part of something bigger to know that you could turn to a complete stranger and, chances are, you could have an hour-long discussion with them about what's going to happen in the next book.

Other fans of the book are in it purely for the story. They spend hours on end with their noses buried in the latest book, only to finish it and fret about how they're going to last until the next one comes out in several years. J. K. Rowling has the ability to spin a story so quickly and adeptly that it's impossible for a reader to put one of her books down after they start reading. "The storyline is rather addictive," admits Thara Gorur, a freshman at the University of Virginia.



THE-LEAKY-CAULDRON.ORG

Harry Potter: #1 cause of death for Trees Across the Globe.

More fans say that they want to see how the characters change from book to book. "I like the three main kids because though they're clearly the heroes, they have big, whopping faults," says Ellen Wright, a junior at the University of Virginia. Part of the attraction of the *Harry Potter* series for a good many readers, especially children, is that they can relate to the characters in it. They're kids just like them, and make mistakes the same way they do. Not everybody likes all of the characters, though they are a hook no matter what. "For a good while, I kept coming back to see if Harry had gotten a personality yet," admits Kim Nguyen, 16. Still, people have trouble putting their finger on just why *Harry Potter*, above all the other books that have these elements as well, is so incredibly popular with readers of all ages.

The answer? It's hard to say for sure, but one possibility in particular stands out: the *Harry Potter* books are all about publicity and marketing. The books are good, but not outstanding even within their genre; it's word of mouth that has taken them so far, and advertisements and movies have brought them so much into the spotlight that has made them so popular. However, the genre of children's fantasy, ignored for years, has started to make a comeback; people who've never even looked at the genre before are reading *Harry Potter* at the request of their friends and acquaintances, and appreciating the beauty of a novel that can appeal to everybody, no matter their age. And they're only just starting to realize that *Harry Potter* is only the tip of the iceberg.

"Good fantasy, regardless of the author, provides this escapism, and spurs thoughts on the way our reality functions," says Maryellen Chainey, '04. Fantasy isn't just for children anymore. It's something adults can appreciate and relate to, whether because they remember what it was like to see magic in everyday life, or because they still enjoy being taken away from the world they live in. "Adults

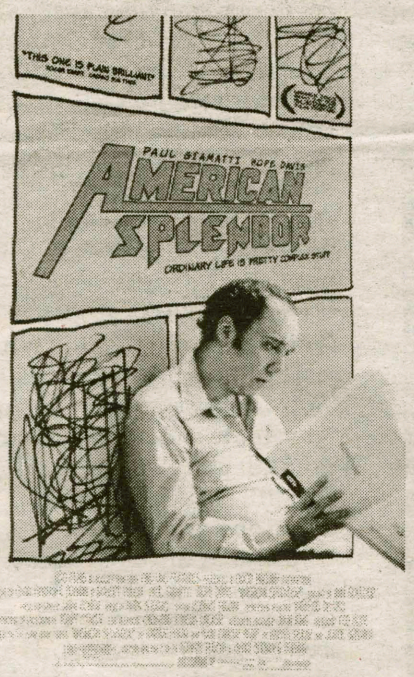
*see **Potter**, page 17*

Movie News: *American Splendor* and *The Magdalene Sisters*

Brian Sweeney '06 tells you about a few smaller summer films

If the summer had featured more than just one or two notable movies, then I would have started this article by recounting those films. In the same vein, since there is nothing coming out today that is worth previewing, I'm not going to be doing anything like that (lets face it, if you want to see *Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star* then you should stop reading now because you aren't going to like what I'm going to write today, next week, next year, etc.). Instead, I'm going to discuss two movies that you did not see this summer and may not have even heard of before.

The first film is *American Splendor* and the second is The *Magdalene Sisters*. Unfortunately, *American Splendor* is not playing anywhere close to us yet, but it is just beginning to widen its release beyond New York City and Los Angeles. However, starting today, *The Magdalene Sisters* is actually playing somewhere that is relatively close to us. If you have a car and really want to see the film, it will be playing at the Manlius Art Cinema which is located on 135 East Seneca Street in Manlius. Mapquest estimates the travel time to be a little bit less than an hour.



IMDB.COM

Another movie about a frustrated balding fat guy. Go see!

American Splendor won the Sundance Grand Jury Prize a few months ago and has been very well received all around. It tells the (somewhat) true story of Harvey Pekar, a file clerk at a hospital who leads a pretty mundane and ordinary life. He writes comic books but it isn't until he begins to write one that details, quite honestly, the very common life he leads that things begin to change. The film features an actor, Paul Giamatti, playing Harvey as well as the real Harvey Pekar playing himself. It also cleverly weaves the drawings from the comic books and comic book style editing (similar to *The Hulk*) to tell the story. The film was directed by Shari Berman and Robert Pulcini. Try and find a way to see it!

The Magdalene Sisters tells the story of four women living in Ireland in the sixties who were given to the Catholic Church by their families to be reformed of their "sinful" behavior. One of the girls was sent for flirting with boys, two for being impregnated before marriage, and the other for being raped. They are then forced to work on laundry duty at the Magdalene Asylum. As they are forced to work to atone for their sins, the Nuns attempt to break their will through terrible punishments. Sounds fun, doesn't it? Unfortunately, this is not completely fiction as institutions like this one did exist up until 1996. The film stars Geraldine McEwan, Dorothy Duffy, Ann-Marie Duff, Eileen Walsh, Nora-Jane Noone and was written and directed by Peter Mullan. The reviews are also very positive.

There are a few current news stories. Capitalizing on the fact that most Lord of the Rings fans spend most of their time sitting on their couch anyway, New Line Cinema has decided to re-release the previous two Tolkien films before the final movie in the trilogy debuts. On December 5th *The Fellowship of the Ring*: *Extended Edition* (that's the DVD version with 35 extra minutes) will come to theaters. Then on the 12th those prints will be replaced with *The Two Towers: Extended Edition* (which will be released on DVD in November). And finally, on December 16th a group of theaters nationwide will show *Fellowship* at 3pm followed by *Two Towers* at 7pm and then *The Return of the King* will play at 11pm, ending early in the morning on December 17th - the day of its worldwide release. Just goes to show the fine line that exists between what can be bliss for some and torture for others.

IMDB.COM

Nora-Jane Noone poses seductively in *The Magdalene Sisters*. If you are willing to drive for an hour then its playing at a theater near you!

Quentin Tarantino's new film *Kill Bill*,starring Uma Thurman, was cut in two at the request of Tarantino. The movie is now going to be released in two volumes - which means that *Kill Bill: Volume One* will be released in

see ***Movie****, page 17*

Sex and the City Makes a Difference

Megan Semerod '06 talks about the hit HBO sitcom

Manolo Blahnik, Manhattan and most importantly four best friends-- all the ingredients that make *Sex and the City* a hit. Six seasons ago, HBO debuted the first episode of *Sex and the City* and now, in June, it will be time to bid farewell to the four sex symbols that have encouraged women everywhere to embrace orgasms as coffee talk.

As a follower of Carrie, Charlotte, Miranda and Samantha, I was disappointed to hear that this would be the last season that I'd get to watch them tour New York City and the Hamptons looking for love and handbags. I realized though, that as shallow as the show is perceived, there was a lot to be taken from the years I loyally spent taking in their escapes or sexcapes. They proved to be an excellent model of friendship. No matter how many guys they went through (and Samantha appeared to have been through every guy in the city) the girls always had each other. Mr. Big may have deserted Carrie for a vineyard in California but even baby Brady didn't stand in the foursome's way of brunch at the coffee shop or a weekend trip to Atlantic City.

HBO.COM

The *Sex and the City* girls prepare to say goodbye to the one success that three out of four of these women will ever be a part of.

The girls have grown up over the years. Charlotte has found her ideal husband (again), Miranda has realized that motherhood is just as important as being a top notch lawyer and Samantha has had not one, but two serious relationships. Most importantly, Carrie has decided that getting married isn't the most important thing in the world to her.

"Are we simply romantically challenged, or are we sluts?" Carrie and the others admit that their behavior isn't exactly chaste, but they are young single women and this is fiction. Besides covering every base of friendship, the show obviously deals with SEX. Every possible problem, blunder and concept has been covered in the show - from Charlotte getting crabs to Samantha deciding she wants to "try" being a lesbian. As their lives changed, the women changed with them. There's been a constant parade of different guys each season, but they've always had each other.

Since Hamilton cable isn't equipped with HBO, I'll have to wait for my parents to send me a tape of the season's episodes to determine if Carrie ends up with Big. As a firm believer in happy endings, I'd love to say that I want them to end up together, but maybe that's not who Carrie is. Maybe she's just a woman in her late thirties who already has the ideal family - her best friends.

Cosmopolitan
Ingredients
1/4 oz. Absolut Citron
1/4 oz. Lime juice
1/4 oz. Triple Sec or Cointreau
1/4 cup Cranberry juice
Mixing:
Combine all ingredients in a cocktail shaker with ice. Quickly shake and pour into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a lime twist.

(courtsey, www.webtender.com)

Radiohead: Hail to the Thief

Mike O'Leary '04 talks about their newest album

Radiohead continues to be, without a doubt, the most eccentric and innovative band out there. In a world where bands wallowing in their own mediocrity (see *Staind*, *Nickelback* or *Creed*) continue to sell out stadiums, and formally promising artists (see *Pearl Jam*, Billy Corgan's *Zwan* or Chris Cornell's *Audioslave*) continue to fail, *Radiohead* remains the band that is saving rock. Now they have released *Hail to the Thief*, which may be their best work yet; and this is coming from a guy who thinks that 1997's *OK Computer* is one of the best albums ever made.

ATEASEWEB.COM

The Radiohead boys pose for their own cliched band-looking-into-the-camera-contemplatively photo

Hail is the culmination of Thom Yorke and Co.'s artistic vision. It shows the playability and accessibility of *The Bends* and *OK Computer* with a more mature focus to their political paranoia and social rage. In *Hail, Radiohead* is not simply going back to their 90's formula, however. This album continues to merge the rock and electronic elements of *Kid A* and *Amnesiac*, but this time they don't lose us in the eccentricity.

Radiohead is lashing out at a post 9-11 world that blindly feeds into opportunist political agendas both in their native England and in the United States (*2+2=5*). They slam governments that preach obedience and disguise it as patriotism (We can wipe you out (sit down, stand up)/ Anytime (sit down)/ Anytime), and shun the absence of activism (We don't really want a monster taking over/Tip toeing, tying down/We don't want the loonies takin' over/Tip toeing, tying down our arms/...Come to you as you sleep/I'm not gonna go to sleep/And let this wash over me). The result is a timely, powerful album that needs a few listens, but after a while the complex arrangements, trance-like rhythms, and incendiary lyrics will reveal true artists, something that is desperately needed in music today.

The Latest from Hollywood

from **Movie,** *page16*

IMDB.COM

Thurman negotiates her contract prior to filming.

October and *Kill Bill: Volume Two* will be released tentatively in February of 2004. Thurman plays an assassin who is betrayed on her wedding day by her boss, Bill, and left for dead. When she survives and wakes from the coma she was in she swears to, you guessed it, kill Bill. The film will feature lots of martial arts and specially created anime. Tarantino last directed *Jackie Brown* and *Pulp Fiction*.

In other news, Christopher Nolan, who directed *Memento*, is indeed making a Batman film. Production is to commence in February of 2004. Right now, though, The Hollywood Reporter has released the list of actors who are about to be tested to play the part of Bruce Wayne/ Batman: Jake Gyllenhaal (*October Sky*), Christian Bale (*American Psycho*), Joshua Jackson (*Dawson's Creek*), Cillian Murphy (*28 Days Later*), Henry Cavill (*I Capture the Castle*) and Eion Bailey (???). Hugh Dancy, who is currently playing Galahad in Jerry Bruckheimer's *King Arthur*, may also be tested.

Thanks to aintitcool.com, boxofficemojo.com, imdb.com, and hollywoodreporter.com

People Plotz for Potter

from **Potter**, *page 15*

may read it for the skill in which current day issues are addressed in an entertaining and clever way." Truly excellent fantasy, however, allows readers to relate to it not just in the present day, but for years to come. Readers are still picking up Tolkein for the first time, decades after he published his series The Lord of the Rings, and becoming enthralled. It's only recently, though, that children's fantasy has started to attract the attention of adults.

"I definitely don't think Rowling is the be-all-end-all of young adult fantasy," says Wright. "There are at least a few who have been there before and done, in my opinion, better. Diana Wynne Jones, Patricia C. Wrede, Madeleine L'Engle, Susan Cooper — they all write really good stories, and have been producing them for years."

Diana Wynne Jones, in particular, is slowly but surely gaining recognition in the genre of young adult fantasy and most of her readers consider her stories even more entertaining than J. K. Rowling's. "My favorite young adult fantasy writer is probably Diana Wynne Jones," says Nguyen, "because what she writes is a lot more subtle than other writers' works, especially Rowling's. I'm really annoyed by the 'Read this if you're into Harry Potter' labels placed on her books. She's been around a lot longer, and she writes a LOT better." Jones is the author of *The Dark Lord of Derkholm* andthe two-volume series*The Chronicles of Chrestomanci,* which is a collection of novels and shorter stories that deal with a colorful array of characters, linked by the fact that they all live in a series of related parallel worlds in which only an enchanter with nine lives can control the misuse of magic.

Children's fantasy is earning a new level of respect thanks to Rowling and *Harry Potter*, but it is by no means led by it. Take Jane Yolen's *Wizard's Hall*, published seven years before *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* , as an example. It tells the story of eleven year-old Henry, who leaves his home to go to wizarding school and hopefully make something of himself. Once there, he quickly learns that he has a mysterious extra burden of responsibility and respect that no one will quite explain. He eventually learns that he alone has the power to overcome an ancient prophecy and defeat a dark evil that has been haunting the school for decades. In doing so, finds the very future of the wizarding world in his young hands.

Sound familiar, *Harry Potter* fans? Many people mistakenly belive that the *Harry Potter* series has in some way created the genre of children's fantasy. Remember reading a little book called *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* when you were little? What about T*he Book of Three* and *The Black Cauldron*? Rowling's books are excellent, but there are far better books to be read, with even wilder and more original ideas.

Perhaps the best thing about Rowling's work is that she's gotten people of all ages, but especially children, reading again. In a time when video games and movies have taken the places of storybooks and make-believe, it's rare to find people so excited about a series of novels. *Harry Potter* is very much like a gateway drug for young adult fantasy, only there's no drawback to becoming increasingly addicted (except exhausting your local library). Parents are actually looking forward to reading that chapter before bedtime, and kids who would otherwise spend countless mindless hours with their Playstations are reading 500-page books in their free time instead. "Harry Potter is good," says Wright. "I just hope those kids realize there are other good books out there, and try them, too."

Last Weekend at the Movies

Weekend Gross*/Total Gross

1. *Jeepers Creepers 2*
$18,365,222
$18,365,222
2. *Freaky Friday*
$12,602,252
$90,844,347
3. *Pirates of the Carribean*
$10,818,785
$275,018,547
4. *S.W.A.T.*
$10,780,295
$102,702,416
5. *Open Range*
$10,748,196
$43,482,974
6. *Seabiscuit*
$9,061,030
$104,645,915
7. *Freddy vs. Jason*
$8,660,070
$73,944,569
8. *The Medallion*
$6,210,244
16,867,389
9. *Uptown Girls*
$5,607,007
$30,426,760
10. *American Wedding*
$4,760,255
$97,694,355

*** 4-Day Labor Day Weekend Results**

Advertisements

New Faculty hit the Hill

*from **Faculty**, page 5*

writings of the Puritans, like Cotton Mather and Mary Rowlandson.

What drew you to apply for a position at Hamilton?

The lousy weather: San Francisco was just to sunny and balmy, with too many restaurants and movie houses. Seriously, I grew up near here (in Western New York). I even considered attending Hamilton. It's a place I've always held in high regard. I respect our committment to teaching, to a liberal education, to interdisciplinarity. The English department is a vibrant, cohesive department. The students are committed and hard workers. The range of classes offered. All sorts of things. But mostly, the lousy weather.

What's one thing that students should know about you (about your teaching style or personality) before signing up for your classes?

Prepare to think outside the box, get a lot of practice and feedback on your writing, and express your opinions and ideas.

What interests do you have outside of academics? (i.e. what do you do in your spare time/on the weekends?)

When I'm not curling up with Cotton Mather, you can catch me wandering around the village with my dogs. I bake. I nap. I collect vintage lesbian paperbacks. I write letters to the editor, sounding off about queer rights, economic justice, Bush's politics, off-leash dog parks. I drive around looking for interesting food marts and back alley thrift stores. Weather permitting.

Cathy Silber
East Asian Studies (Chinese)
What are your specific academic areas of interest and what about these areas fascinates you?

Chinese language, literature and culture, also literary translation. Literary study is my home discipline, but I also use approaches from anthropology, gender studies, and cultural studies. I think when I first started studying Chinese language and literature as an undergrad I was drawn by the challenge, but also the need for something completely different, against which, or through which, I could better understand myself and my own culture, because I had found my own culture—America—pretty incomprehensible, ever since I was a child. I think what continues to fascinate me now is understanding Chinese culture and conveying that understanding to native speakers of English, through teaching, writing, and literary translation.

What drew you to apply for a position at Hamilton?

Quite simply, Hamilton's world-famous Chinese program.

What are you most looking forward to this year? What are you most concerned about?

My answer to both questions is the same: finishing my book. I love teaching so much that I have this bad habit of putting my own writing on the back burner.

What's one thing that students should know about you (about your teaching style or personality) before signing up for your classes?

I tend to be blunt, try as I might to improve my skills at prevarication.

What interests do you have outside of academics? (i.e. what do you do in your spare time/on the weekends?)

Right now I'm waging a battle to protect a very stupid chipmunk in my yard from my cat. I like walking in the woods, learning the names of trees and wildflowers. When I get my dulcimer and banjo out of the shop, I'm going to start playing music again.

Richard Skinner '92
Government
What are your specific academic areas of interest?

Congress, political parties and interest groups, elections, mass media and public opinion.

What drew you to apply for a position at Hamilton?

Gratitude. And I needed a job.

What are you most looking forward to this year?

Greatly lowering my risk of heatstroke and skin cancer [Skinner most recently lived in Virginia].

What are you most concerned about?

My snowshoes getting entangled and my sled-dogs going on strike.

What's one thing that students should know about you (about your teaching style or personality) before signing up for your classes?

There are two kinds of academics: those who think big thoughts that shake the foundations of our society and those who spout glib comments and tell cheesy jokes. I'm the second kind.

What interests do you have outside of academics? (i.e. what do you do in your spare time/on the weekends?)

Sleep.

Eric Thomas
Religous Studies
What are your specific academic areas of interest and what about these areas fascinates you?

I'm specifically interested in the interaction between religion, on the one hand, and science (broadly construed to include psychology and technology), on the other.

Which classes are you teaching this year?

I'm teaching a course on "alternative" american religions (religions like Mormonism, Christian Science, and the New Age) and a seminar on African American religions.

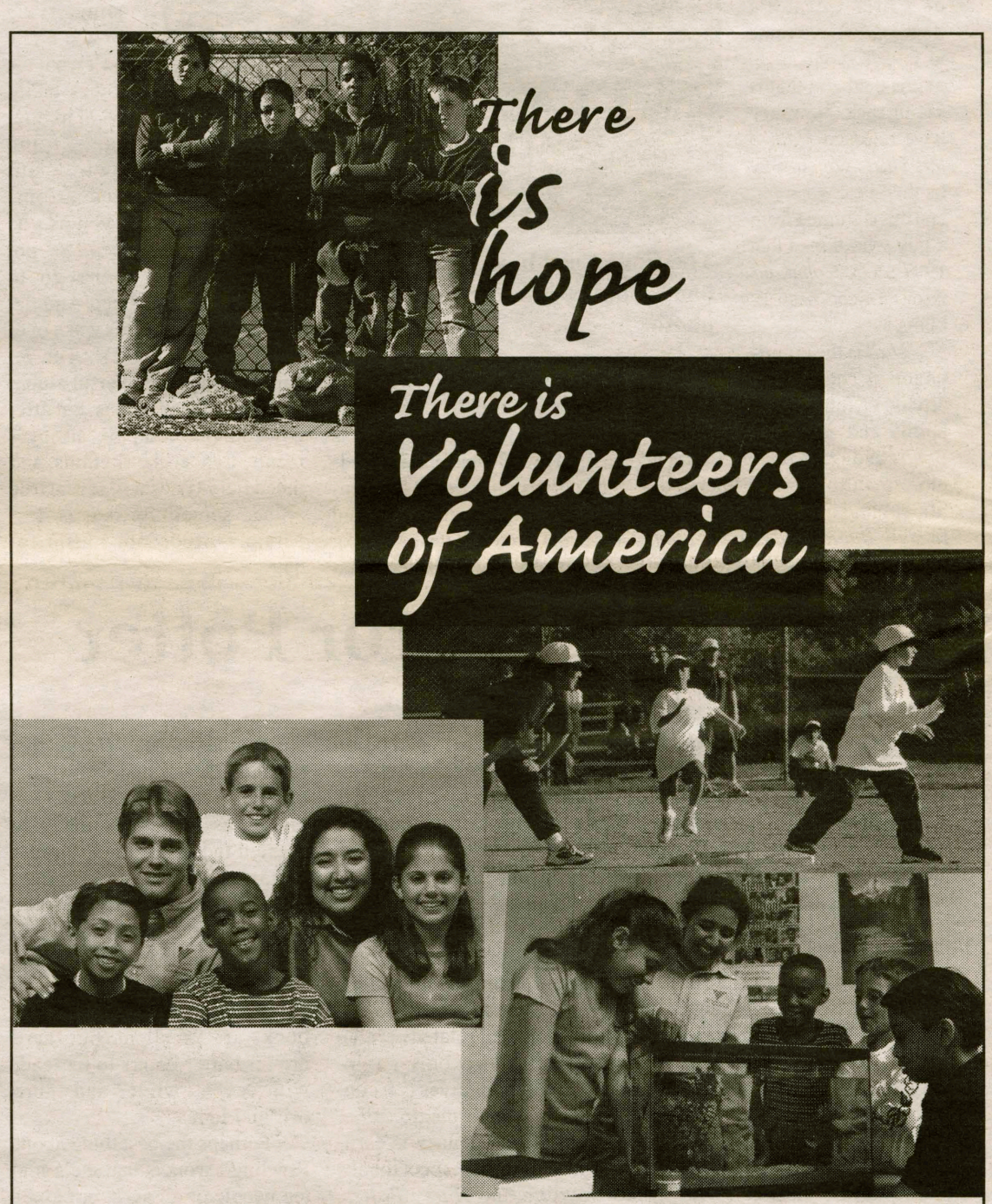
Are you currently doing any research and, if so, could you describe it?

I'm finishing my dissertation, which focuses on the philosophical, scientific, and theological background of a group of liberal Protestant ministers who, starting in 1906 Boston, incorporated psychotherapy into their set of pastoral practices.

BORED?

Write for the Spec!

Email Jkuhl or Dbleeker



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Continentals fall 2003 season previews

Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team has just completed the most successful three-year run in the program's history. Hamilton was 33-10-3 for a .750 winning percentage during those three years. Now, the Continentals will try to continue that run without six starters that graduated in May.

Head coach Perry Nizzi has brought in an outstanding recruiting class to help replace those six starters. A number of returning players should help as well. Three of the top four scorers and all three goaltenders are back from 2002.

Midfielder and three-year starter Mike Galante '04 will be the key to running the offense. Galante is the most versatile and most skilled player and may play wide, depending on what Nizzi needs from him this year. The Second Team All-UCAA selection took 26 shots and scored three goals last year.

Super sub Dimitry Maurice '04 played in all 15 games in 2002, but didn't start any. Maurice is the leading returning scorer from his forward position with five goals and two assists. Nizzi hopes Maurice will take over the scoring burden from graduated NCAA Division III All-Northeast Region selection Schuyler Gellatly.

Two-year starter James Parke '04 is the only returning starter on defense. Parke is Hamilton's best man-to-man marker and will control the other team's top player.

Craig Li '04 has been a utility starter for Nizzi. Li played stopper as a freshman, center midfield his sophomore year, and outside back last year. This year he will fill any spot the Continentals need him to fill.

Forward Wes Sherman '04 and midfielders Nikolas Guzijan '06 and Jacob Shapiro '05 also return to help with the offensive and defensive burdens. Sherman scored three goals and Guzijan assisted on three in 2002.

The schedule includes a UCAA game at 2002 national semifinalist St. Lawrence (Oct. 10) and a non-conference matchup at 2002 NCAA qualifier Ithaca College on Sept. 30.

HAMILTON.EDU

Mike Galante (15) will run the offemse through the midfield.

HAMILTON.EDU

Hamilton's defensive improvement will be the key to success in 2003.

Field Hockey

Hamilton College's field hockey program grew in leaps and bounds last year in head coach Tracy Kelleher's first season on "The Hill."

The Continentals improved from one win in 2001 to four wins last year, which was the most in a season since 1998 when Hamilton won five games. Games against SUNY Geneseo and Nazareth College went to overtime last year before the Continentals fell by identical 2-1 scores.

If Kelleher's squad continues to show that kind of improvement, a .500 season and a berth in the Upstate Collegiate Athletic Association playoffs is possible.

The schedule annually offers Hamilton some of the best competition in the nation. Five of the eight UCAA schools won 11 or more games in 2002. Defending UCAA champion Skidmore College, which hosts the Continentals on Oct. 10, advanced to the NCAA Division III quarterfinals last year. William Smith, another UCAA rival, won the NCAA championship in 2001 and visits Hamilton on Sept. 27. The Continentals also host 2000 national champ SUNY Cortland in a non-league game on Oct. 2.

Captain Erin Turcot '04 will lead Hamilton through its challenging slate. Turcot is a two-time All-UCAA Second Team pick and team MVP. Returning starter Elizabeth Conway '05 will join Turcot in the midfield.

Eden Self '04 will try to lead the Continental offensive attack for the third straight year. Self has amassed a total of 24 points the last two seasons, including 14 (five goals, four assists) in 2002.

Self will have plenty of help at the attack position. Starters Courtney Snyder '06, Kelsey Knight '06 and Katelyn McGee '06 return for their second seasons. Co-captain Amy Mills '04, who missed all of last season with an ankle injury, will provide depth.

Ann Hapanowicz '05 will anchor a defense that features returning starters Kristen Archibald '06, Stephanie Metz '04, and Joanna McCann '05, who had five points in just eight games.

Three goalkeepers will compete for the right to back Coach Kelleher's experienced group.

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	Small	Large
Cheese	6.00	8.95
1 Item	6.75	9.95
2 Items	7.50	10.95
3 Items	7.75	11.95
4 Items	8.50	12.95

Small = 8 pieces Large = 16 pieces

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Pizza Slices ..... 1.16 each + tax
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Hamilton hires new sports information director

Utica College graduate Jim Taylor enters with a background in journalism

by Michael Proia '05
Sports Editor

Jim Taylor has been hired to replace Steve Jaynes as sports information director at Hamilton College. Taylor will be responsible for publicity of the college's 28 intercollegiate athletic programs.

Taylor comes to the Hill having spent the previous year working as an editorial assistant in the prep school sports department for *The Chicago Tribune*. Prior to that he served as director of media relations and publications at Notre Dame High School for Boys in north suburban Chicago from 1999-2002.

From 1996-1999, Taylor worked as sports information director at DeSales University, an NCAA Division III program. He took over that position following one year at Lehigh University, working as sport communications assistant.

Taylor brings knowledge of local sports to the job, having graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism from Syracuse University at Utica. While at Utica, Taylor acted as sports information director for his final two years, in addition to writing for both the *Utica Observer-Dispatch* as well as the *Oneida Dispatch*.

Taylor has put his degree in journalism to good use, writing freelance for the Pioneer Press, a weekly publication for suburban communities in Chicago.

The Hamilton College Athletic department and Taylor have hired a staff of several student assistants and plan to hire a full-time paid intern to the staff as well. The increased staff will help Taylor accomplish his main goal of working extensively on the athletic web pages.

"The web page is a great way to get news out to students and alumni off campus," said Taylor. "We want to keep it updated and just make sure they can get all the information they want. The larger staff will be a big help for me. Some weekends we have an extraordinary number of games, and I obviously can't be at all of them. [The weekend of September 27] is packed with games. That's where the students working with me will be able to help out the most."

Taylor, originally from Farmington, Maine, currently lives in New Hartford with his wife, Amy.

Steve Jaynes has taken the sports information director job at Cornell University. Jaynes had been sports information director at Hamilton for the previous four years.

Following a highly successful year for Hamilton sports, and considering the highly touted freshmen recruits, Taylor should have plenty of positive news to report throughout the academic year.

Our new sports in formation director is already hard at work, but is excited for the games to get started next week, when several teams play their first homes games of the season.

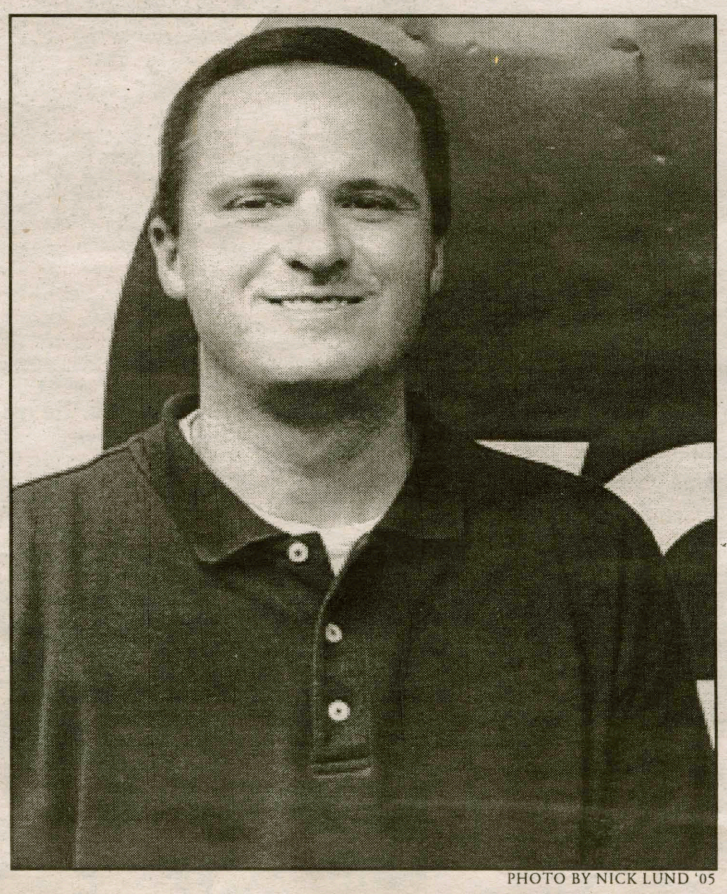

PHOTO BY NICK LUND '05

New sports information director Jim Taylor.

Continentals Fall 2003 season previews

The follwoing information was compiled by Jim Taylor, sports information director. It is being used courtesy of www.hamilton.edu.

Men's Golf

After winning their share of individual titles last season, Hamilton College's golfers want to experience some team success in 2003-04. Second-year coach Al Highducheck will try to lead this talented group to the heights it once hit during the 1990s.

Brian Williams '04 leads the nine student-athletes returning with varsity experience. Williams won four individual titles last season, including the NESCAC Championships. He was named NESCAC Player of the Year for his efforts. Williams was also a First Team All-Northeast Region selection.

Tom Ferrero '04 seemed to save his best performances for the biggest tournaments last season. Ferrero was medalist at the ECAC Championships and finished in the top 10 at the UCAA and NESCAC Championships.

Williams, Ferrero and Co. are now gunning for a breakthrough performance in the 2004 NCAA District One Division III Shoot-Out and a possible NCAA Championships invite.

Golf has been an intercollegiate sport at Hamilton since 1930. It is both a fall and spring sport at Hamilton. In the 1990's the golf program emerged as one of the finest in the Northeast. In 1998-99 the Continentals won the NESCAC Championship and qualified for the ECAC Championships.

Women's Tennis

Fourth-year head coach Jamie King is coming off one of the most successful seasons in the women's tennis program's history at Hamilton College. The Continentals won their first nine matches last fall before losing to Skidmore in the UCAA semifinals. Hamilton eventually finished 10-1 with a UCAA third-place medal and King was named UCAA Coach of the Year. The program also climbed to No. 14 in the Northeast Regional rankings.

There was also plenty of individual success. Lindsay Schantz '03 was named UCAA and New York State Player of the Year after winning the ITA Northeast Regional championship. As a result, Schantz became the first Hamilton women's tennis player to compete in the ITA National Championships.

Schantz wasn't the only Hamilton player winning awards last season. Kaitie Donovan '06 earned UCAA and New York State Rookie of the Year honors after compiling a 13-2 record at No. 2 singles last fall. Donovan and Schantz were also 8-3 as the top doubles pairing. Lizzie Fazio '04 Kate Borne '06, Callen Sterling '06 and Meghan Rose '06 are other top returnees from the 2002-03 season. Sterling manufactured an 8-2 record at No. 6 singles.

King makes sure his players are challenged in dual matches during the regular season. This fall Hamilton hosts Division II Le Moyne College, plus Wesleyan University from the NESCAC, which sent six schools to the NCAA Team Championships in the spring. The Continentals will also see top competition in the Rolex, UCAA and NYSWCAA Tournaments. UCAA member Vassar College also qualified for NCAAs last spring.

*see **Previews**, page 19...*

HAMILTON.EDU

Brian Williams '04 hopes to lead the golf team to a NESCAC title.

Write for the sports section! The sports editors are still looking for writers to cover a few fall teams. Would rather write about national news than Ham-Tech sports? Thats fine too. Contact Mike or Andrew by email at spec@hamilton.edu, or call Mike at x3009.